GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research

CENTENARY COMMEMORATION SOUVENIR

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2009

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

SOUVENIR

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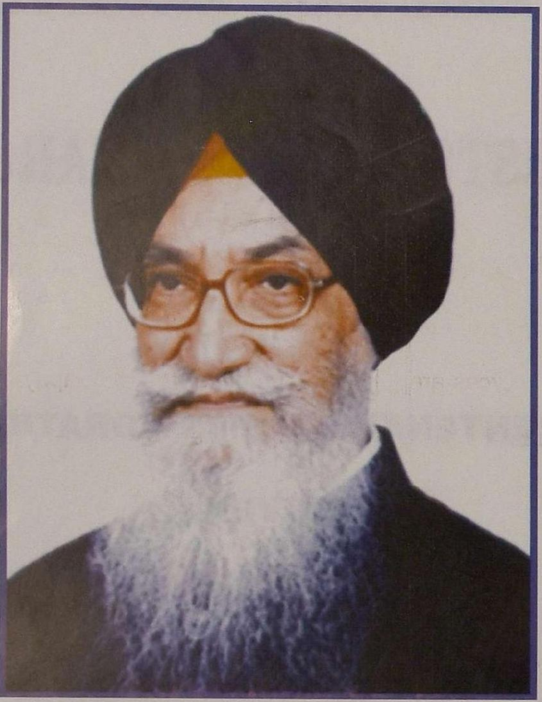

His Excellency Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala
Governor of Tamil Nadu

GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Surjit Singh Barnala
GOVERNOR

31st August, 2009

MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that the Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research is celebrating its centenary in October 2009 and is bringing out a souvenir in commemoration.

Archival sources are primary sources for historiography. We need to preserve the rich records which take one to the past and speak volumes of our history, the rich heritage, culture and civilization.

The Tamil Nadu Archives takes pride of being one of the oldest and biggest archives in India housing many rich public records of great historical value and importance and in preserving them on scientific lines.

I am sure that The Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research would adopt novel methods to retrieve them and maintain them suiting to the changing trends and provide for easy access to information in this fast growing world on par with international standards.

I convey my warm felicitations to the officers and staff of the Tamil Nadu Archives on its centenary celebrations.

I wish the Centenary celebrations all success.

Surjit Singh Barnala

(SURJIT SINGH BARNALA)

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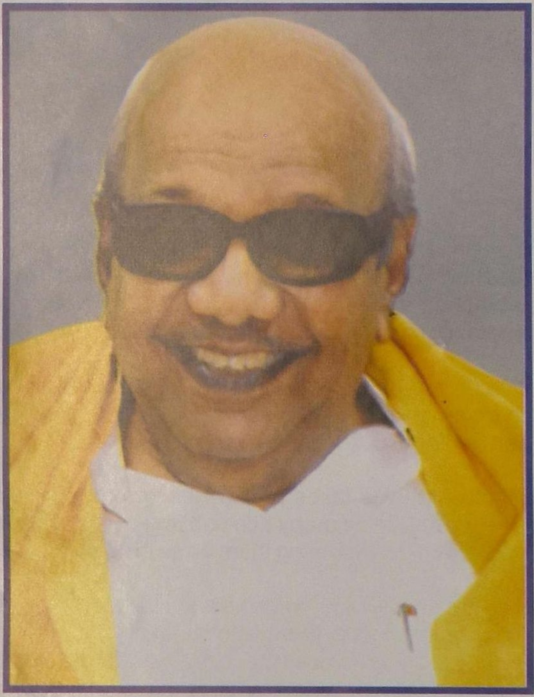


கலைஞர் மு. கருணாநிதி

மாண்புமிகு தமிழக முதலமைச்சர்

மு. கருணாநிதி
முதலமைச்சர்

தலைமைச் செயலகம்
சென்னை – 600 009

நாள் 19-08-2009

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம் 2009 அக்டோபர் திங்களில், ''நூற்றாண்டு விழா'' காண்பது அறிந்து மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன்.

1805 ஆம் ஆண்டில் முதன்முதலில் புனித ஜார்ஜ் கோட்டையின் ஒரு பகுதியில் சிறிய அளவிலான ஆவணங்களுடன் ''ஆவணக் காப்பாட்சியர்'' ஒருவரின் கீழ் தன் பணியைத் தொடங்கிய இந்நிறுவனம், 1909 ஆம் ஆண்டில் சென்னை எழும்பூரில், ''மதராஸ் ரெக்கார்டு ஆபீஸ்'' என்ற பெயரில் தோற்றுவிக்கப்பட்டது. 1973 ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல், ''தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி'' எனும் பெயரில் தொடர்ந்து செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது.

கிழக்கிந்தியக் கம்பெனி ஆவணங்கள், தலைமைச் செயலகத்தின் அனைத்துத் துறைகளிலும் உருவாக்கப்படும் ஆவணங்கள், மதிப்புவாய்ந்த தனியார் ஆவணங்கள் போன்றவை அனைத்தும் இக்காப்பகத்தில் பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இந்த ஆவணங்கள் கடந்தகால நிகழ்வுகளுக்குச் சான்றாகவும், அரசின் புதிய திட்டங்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டிகளாகவும் எடுத்தாளப்படுகின்றன. அரசுக்கும், வரலாற்று ஆய்வாளர்களுக்கும், வருங்காலத் தலைமுறைகளுக்கும் தகவல் சுரங்கமாகத் திகழும் இக்காப்பகம் இந்திய நாட்டு ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கு மட்டுமின்றி, அயல்நாட்டு ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கும் பெருந்துணை புரிந்துவருவது போற்றத்தக்கதாகும்.

தேவைப்படும் வேளைகளில் அரசுக்கும், ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கும் சான்றாவணங்களை வழங்கிவரும் தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனம் காணும், ''நூற்றாண்டு விழா'' எழுச்சியுடன் நிகழ என் உளமார்ந்த நல்வாழ்த்துகள் உரித்தாகுக.

(மு. கருணாநிதி)

பெறுநர்
திரு. ரமேஷ் குமார் கன்னா, இ.ஆ.ப.,
முதன்மைச் செயலாளர்/ஆணையர்,
தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்–வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி,
எழும்பூர், சென்னை–600 008.

பேராசிரியர் க. அன்பழகன்
மாண்புமிகு நிதித் துறை அமைச்சர்

க. அன்பழகன்
நிதித் துறை அமைச்சர்

தலைமைச் செயலகம்
சென்னை – 600 009

நாள் 09-09-2009

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

1909–ஆம் ஆண்டு "மெட்ராஸ் ரெக்கார்டு ஆபீஸ்" என்ற பெயரில் தொடங்கப்பட்ட தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம், 1973 இல் தமிழ்நாடு வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி ஆவணக்காப்பகம் என்று பெயர் மாற்றம் செய்யப் பெற்று, வரலாறு, பண்பாடு மற்றும் நிர்வாகம் தொடர்பான ஆவணங்களை அவற்றின் மெருகு குலையாமல் பேணிப்பாதுகாத்து வருவது மிகவும் பாராட்டத்தக்கது.

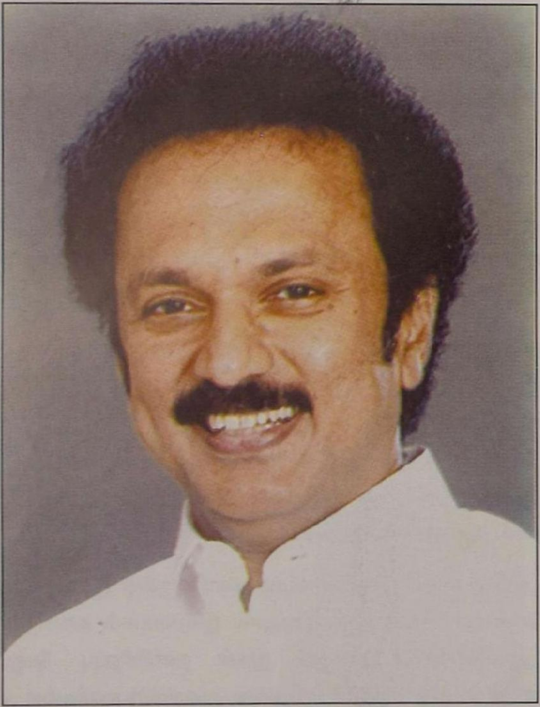
தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகத்தில், கிழக்கிந்திய வணிகக் குழுமத்தின் ஆவணங்களிலிருந்து இன்று வரையிலான தலைமைச் செயலக அனைத்துத் துறைகளின் அரசு ஆவணங்களும் பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டு வருவதும், தலைமைச் செயலக அனைத்துத் துறைகளிலிருந்தும் ஆவணங்களைப் பெற்று பாதுகாத்து அரசின் நிருவாகக் காரணங்களுக்காக ஆவணங்கள் தேவைப்படும் பொழுது வழங்கி வருவதும் போற்றத்தக்கது.

1930–ஆம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கு ஆவணங்களை வழங்கி வருவதும், சென்னைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தால் இக்காப்பகம் வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி மையமாக அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளதும் இதன் தனிச்சிறப்பு. மேலும், தமிழக வரலாற்றினை ஆராய்ந்து எழுதும் வகையில் ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களை இக்காப்பகம் ஊக்கப்படுத்தி வருவது பாராட்டப்பட வேண்டிய ஒன்றாகும்.

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம் தனது நூற்றாண்டு விழாவைக் கொண்டாடும் இத்தருணத்தில் சிறப்பு மலர் ஒன்று வெளியிடுவதை அறிந்து எனது வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்வதுடன், மலரில் அரிய கருத்துக்கள் இடம்பெறவும் விழைகிறேன்.

க. அன்பழகன்

(க. அன்பழகன்)



டாக்டர் மு.க. ஸ்டாலின்

மாண்புமிகு தமிழக துணை முதலமைச்சர்

மு.க. ஸ்டாலின்
துணை முதலமைச்சர்

தலைமைச் செயலகம்
சென்னை – 600 009

நாள் 28/8/2009

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

வரலாற்றுச் சிறப்பு மிக்க ஆவணங்களான கிழக்கிந்திய கம்பெனி ஆவணங்கள், தலைமைச் செயலகத் துறைகளால் உருவாக்கப்படும் ஆவணங்கள் மற்றும் தனியார் ஆவணங்களை நவீன அறிவியல் முறைகளில் பேணிப் பாதுகாத்து வரும் தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி, நூற்றாண்டு விழாக் காண்பது அறிந்தும், சிறப்பு மலர் வெளியிட இருப்பது அறிந்தும் மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன்.

ஒரு நாட்டின் அரசியல், சமூக, பொருளாதார மற்றும் பண்பாடு போன்ற வரலாற்றின் மூலச்சான்றுகளான அரசு ஆவணங்களைப் பேணி பாதுகாப்பதோடு, அவற்றை அரசின் அன்றாட நிர்வாகத் தேவைகளுக்கும், ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கும் வழங்கும் பணியினை செவ்வனே ஆற்றிவரும் இக்காப்பகத்தின் பணி பாராட்டுக்கு உரியது.

நூற்றாண்டு விழா சிறப்புடன் நடைபெறவும், சிறப்பு மலர் சிறந்த கருத்துக்களைத் தாங்கி வெளிவரவும் எனது நெஞ்சம் நிறைந்த நல்வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

அன்புடன்,

28/8/2009
(மு.க. ஸ்டாலின்)

பெறுநர்

திரு. ரமேஷ் குமார் கன்னா, இ.ஆ.ப.,
முதன்மைச் செயலர் (ம) ஆணையர்,
தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்,
எழும்பூர், சென்னை–600 008.

முனைவர் க. பொன்முடி

மாண்புமிகு உயர்கல்வித் துறை அமைச்சர்

க. பொன்முடி
உயர்கல்வித் துறை அமைச்சர்

தலைமைச் செயலகம்
சென்னை – 600 009

நாள் 12-08-2009

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

1909–ம் ஆண்டில் துவக்கப்பட்ட "மதராஸ் ரெக்கார்டு ஆபீஸ்" 1969–ல் தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம் என்றும், 1973–ல் தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று ஆராய்ச்சி என்றும் பெயர் மாற்றம் செய்யப்பட்டு செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது.

தென்கிழக்கு ஆசியாவிலேயே சிறப்பானதொரு இடத்தைப்பெற்ற இக்காப்பகம், 1670–ம் ஆண்டைய கிழக்கிந்தியக் கம்பெனி ஆவணங்கள் முதல் அரசின் தற்போதைய ஆவணங்கள் வரையிலான ஆவணங்களை நவீன அறிவியல் முறைகளில் பேணி பாதுகாத்து வருகின்றது. இவ்வாவணங்கள் அரசின் அன்றாட நிர்வாகத் தேவைகளுக்கும் மற்றும் ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கும் வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

ஆவணக்காப்பகத்திலுள்ள நூலகம் சுமார் இரண்டரை லட்சத்திற்கும் மேற்பட்ட நூல்கள் பராமரித்து வருகிறது. இந்நூல்கள் ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களுக்கு மிகவும் பயனுள்ளதாக இருக்கிறது. மேலும், ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்தின் வரலாறு, நிர்வாகம், மக்கள் வாழ்க்கை, பண்பாடு, வளர்ச்சிப் பணிகள் உள்ளிட்ட அனைத்து விவரங்கள் அடங்கிய மாவட்ட விவரச்சுவடிகள் (District Gazetteers) தயாரிக்கும் பணியையும் இக்காப்பகம் மேற்கொண்டு வருகிறது.

தமிழ்நாட்டின் அனைத்து சட்டமன்ற, நாடாளுமன்ற தொகுதிகளுக்கான வாக்காளர் பட்டியல்கள், அரசு அலுவலர்களின் வீட்டுக்கடன் பத்திரங்கள், தமிழ்நாடு அரசால் வெளியிடப்படும் அரசிதழ்கள், நிலநிர்வாகத்துறை மற்றும் நில அளவைத்துறையின் ஆவணங்களும் இக்காப்பகத்தால் முறையாகப் பாதுகாக்கப்படுவதை அறிந்து பெருமகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன்.

தமிழ்நாட்டின் அனைத்து அரசு அலுவலகங்களில் பணிபுரியும் பதிவுரு எழுத்தர்களுக்கு ஆவண மேலாண்மைப் பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இக்காப்பகம் தன்னுடைய நிகரில்லாப் பணிகளின் மூலம் அரசு, ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்கள், பொதுமக்கள் மற்றும் வருங்கால சந்ததியினருக்காக அனைத்து ஆவணங்களையும் சிறந்த முறையில் பராமரித்து, அனைவரும் பயன்பெறும் வகையில் தன்னை அர்ப்பணித்து தன் பணியைத் திறம்பட ஆற்றி, நூறாண்டு காலத்தை 2009–ல் நிறைவு செய்கிறது என்பதை அறியும்போது மட்டற்ற மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன். இதன் பணி மேலும் சிறக்க என் மனமார்ந்த வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

(க. பொன்முடி)

K.S. SRIPATHI, I.A.S.,
CHIEF SECRETARY

SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI - 600 009

MESSAGE

I am glad that Tamil Nadu Archives is celebrating its centenary this year. Tamil Nadu is the land of rich culture, heritage and glorious history. Preserving and maintaining the valuable records is an onerous task. Tamil Nadu Archives & Historical Research is rendering wonderful service to the Society in general and Government of Tamil Nadu in particular in preserving the Government and historical records. It is a treasure island for the student community for their research activities. I wish the Centenary Celebration a grand success and my appreciation for one and all in Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research for their devotion and commitment in making this Department as beacon to the world.

(K.S. SRIPATHI)

K. GANESAN, I.A.S.
Principal Secretary to Government

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HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-600 009

Dated 17-09-2009

MESSAGE

100 years of unblemished service to nation is not a small achievement. This is a historical milestone and Tamil Nadu Archives will continue to render service to the people with more vigour. The archival papers are source materials for history, data banks for planning, records of precedents for administration and above all a treasure that we leave for the future generation.

I wish the Centenary Celebrations a grand success.

(K. GANESAN)

To
Thiru Ramesh Kumar Khanna, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary / Commissioner,
Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research,
51, Gandhi Irwin Road,
Egmore, Chennai-600 018.

तार : राष्ट्रीय अभिलेख
Grams : ARCHEION

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार
जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-११०००१
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA
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E-mail : archives@nic.in
Website : www.nationalarchives.nic.in

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that Tamil Nadu Archives is celebrating its Centenary Celebrations this year.

The State Archives is among the oldest Archives not only in India but in South Asia and has made significant contribution towards the development of Archives under the able stewardship of dedicated archivists like Dr. B.S. Baliga, Sh.S. Singarajan and others. It is equally a treasure house for the study of modern history, housing valuable source material relating to the history of South India as well as East India Company and British rule.

I am confident that the State Archives will continue its good work in the field of Archives and historical research in future.

I offer my best wishes for this occasion.

Dated : 10/9/09

(S.M.R. Baqar)
Director General of Archives
Government of India.

Editorial

RAMESH KUMAR KHANNA, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary / Commissioner

Tamil Nadu Archives and
Historical Research
51, Gandhi Irwin Road,
Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTENARY COMMEMORATION SOUVENIR (Editorial)

Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research in its Centenary Year reaches a significant milestone in the annals of its history. The role of the State archives is multifarious. It centralises and arranges properly all permanent records; preserves the public records employing modern scientific techniques; throws them open for historical research; publishes regularly records of historical and administrative importance and makes them available for official reference.

The records of the East India Company rule got accumulated in the Fort. St. George that necessitated the creation of a separate record office and the result was the birth of the Madras Record Office in Egmore in 1909. Having started functioning in the specially designed buildings and stacks, Madras Record Office has grown steadily and has also undergone metamorphoses in its nomenclature. After Independence, the Madras Record Office became Madras State Archives and rechristened as Tamil Nadu Archives after Madras State became Tamil Nadu. The epithet 'Historical Research' was added taking into account of the services it has been rendering for the promotion of historical research.

The preservation division of the Archives takes care of the old records, mends them using various materials and techniques. The records transferred from the Secretariat have been arranged departmentwise, indexed chronologically and kept in three-tiered stacks.

The reprographical division includes micro film units and other modern electronic gadgets to provide reprographical assistance to research scholars. The Tamil Nadu

Archives is a Research Centre in Modern History affiliated to the University of Madras. The various aspects of the modern history of Tamil Nadu have been documented by the historians, scholars, authors and researchers with the help of the archival sources. The archival library is an indispensable asset to the researchers as its rich collections include rare books, gazetteers, manuals, reports, travel accounts, biographies etc.

Tamil Nadu Archives, to its credit has many publications in the past and present. The contributions of George Garrow, Huddleson, J.J.Cotton, Talboy Wheelers, Henry Dodwell, G.T. Boag, Dr.B.S. Baliga and others who had brought out publications and g uides on archival possessions, are commendable. The publication wing of Tamil Nadu Archives collects documents on specific subjects chronologically and publishes them*in extenso.*

The publication of Gazetteers is a British legacy and it is continued by the Tamil Nadu Archives. The editorial section monitored by a High Level Committee compiles and publishes Gazetteers for the districts of Tamil Nadu.

For the cause of promoting historical research, the Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research has been constituted with the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education as its Chairperson, with three eminent historians and Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department as members and Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research as the ex-officio member secretary of the academic body. The Council awards fellowships to encourage the researchers. Three Philanthropists had instituted endowments with the Tamil Nadu Archives for delivering lectures for the benefit of the research students. They are being conducted annually.

For expanding the archival services to all the district level offices, District Record Centres have been opened in Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore and Thanjavur. A training programme on record management is being imparted to the officials sponsored by the Government Departments. For inculcating archival consciousness among the public especially students, Archives week is celebrated every year with events such as quiz competitions, seminars and exhibitions.

The Tamil Nadu Archives, a pioneer Archives in this country and the biggest in South East Asia, is celebrating its centenary and in commemoration of the great epoch, this souvenir is being brought out.

I am grateful to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Hon'ble Chief Minister for having honoured this Centenary Celebrations with their invaluable messages and kind greetings.

I convey my sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, respected Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education, and the Director General of National Archives for their messages and greetings for the success of the Centenary Celebrations. I also extend special thanks to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and the Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education for their kind help and encouragement for making this celebration a success.

My thanks are due to the sitting members of the Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research, Dr. G. Venkataraman, (Prof.& Head, Department of Indian History, University of Madras), Dr. V. Balambal, (Prof.& Head, Department of Indian History (Retd), University of Madras) for extending their scholarly assistance in the editorial process for publishing the Souvenir. I also thank all the principals of colleges who have sponsored candidates to participate in the College level Quiz Programme organised to commemorate the Centenary Celebrations.

As the Head of the Department, I would like to thank all the officers and staff of the Archives who have worked hard and cooperated in making the centenary celebration a success.

Chennai,
October, 2009.

RAMESH KUMAR KHANNA

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES - THE RED EDIFICE

*- **J. Amba Shankari,** Deputy Commissioner*

Records of public administration grow with their increase in extents and activities. The first half of the 19th century witnessed increase in accumulation of records. This part of the century bristled with series of experiments and changes in administrative policy besides multifarious activities in socio, economic, judicial and civic areas. From this time onwards the number of records began to swell, which compelled the Government to devise a measure for their proper custody and preservation. The earliest repository of these records was the Council room in the Fort House and the earliest container, the Chest. Later a room was allotted in the Secretariat and only in 1805, Lord William Bentinck, the Governor of Madras pooled the records of all the different departments by separating all but the most important records and placed them incharge of a Record Keeper. A better appreciation of this increased value, paved a way for the foundation, collection and location of ancient records in a central building.

In 1906 the Hon'ble Members in Council decided that a specially built record room with fire proof and special fittings should be built in a special place, and the place was to be at Grassmere compound near Egmore Railway Station. By an order of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Government property known as "Grassmere" was reserved as the site for Central Government Record Room.[1] The Consulting Architect was requested by the same order to prepare plans and estimates for the buildings of the record office. This was to be done after consultation with the Government of Bombay to furnish full particulars with regard to the design of the Record Room which was built with latest appliances in Bombay.[2] After due consideration the general design of the new Central Record Office, as it was called then, was approved by the Government. The plans and estimates based on this were submitted by the Consultant Architect, recommended by the Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department for approval and accepted by His Excellency the Governor[3]. The Consultant Architect was G.S.T. Harris, who was a Superintending Engineer in the Public Works Department. He submitted the plans at an estimated cost of the building to be Rs. 3,39,249/- which was accorded sanction by August 1907.

It would be interesting to note that colonization of India, like all other aspects, had its impacts in architectural style too. With the British colonisation, a new type of Architecture began to usher in the arena of Colonial Empire. Earlier, the Dutch, the Portugese and the French made their presence felt through their construction of Forts,

Churches and other buildings, but it was the English who had made a striking impact on architecture in India. This can be seen in the architectural developments that took place in their coastal power centers of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta Presidencies. Initially these colonial architecture displayed its own forms of revived Gothic structure but gradually by mid 19th Century developed into an entirely new style called the Indo-Saracenic style, a term used by the Britishers. This style amalgamated ideas and elements of Indian, Islamic and Gothic revival style favoured in Victorian England. This style exhibited itself in the institutional, civic and other buildings of utility, such as Post Offices (General Post Office), Railway Stations (Egmore), Educational Institutions (Presidency College), Public Offices , High Court, etc. This hybrid style was profusely adopted by the British architects in the mid and late 19th Century in India.

The combination of the elements was increasingly hybrid in nature, imbibing to provide for a sense of native touch.The proponents of this inspirational style were Robert.F.Chischolm, Henry Irwin and Gilbert Scott. Robert.F.Chischolm was the Architect involved in the design of Presidency College and Henry Irwin was the Architect involved in designing the observatory at Kodaikanal in the mid 19th century. The influence of the style, designs and buildings could also be felt in the architectural style of the Tamil Nadu Archives, the then Madras Record Office at Egmore.The design of the building exhibits two features. The external design of the building exhibits the contemporary architectural style prevalent and common in that period of time in British colonies while the internal design is one that of a functional architecture. The construction that was started in 1907, was completed in 1909. The planning was based on scientific lines taking into account of its function and durability.

Exterior Design

The Tamil Nadu Archives is a red old building with massive structure of masonry work. The natural look of stone and brick has been maintained and this appearance has played an important role in exterior building design. The original construction as in 1909 was that of a main Administrative block and six stacks perpendicularly connected to these stacks three each on either side by a common corridor. The façade of the building has a ***Porch*** and an open *Arcade* and is 9 metre in height. The roof of the Porch is supported by brick columns each supported by stone Arches. The curved structure of these arches are of sand stone. The roof of the Porch has a parapet brick wall with ***jali*** works. The granite columns of the anterior Porch have five big arches in all supported by brick walls. The arches made out of sand stones have ***floralmotifs***

engraved on the stone. ***The long Arcade*** consists of twelve columns of granite in the ground floor and fourteen in the first floor placed in equidistance to the left and right sides of three big brick arches which are attached to the porch in the ground floor and similar five upright arches in the middle portion of the first floor. The capital of the column has an ornamental motif. Connecting these granite columns are curved sandstone arches. Simple floral motifs singularly on each side are engraved and the end of sandstone shows a simple corner treatment. In between these granite columns behind the Portico, the arches in the Arcade are supported by brick pillars. These have a wider space length than that of those Arches supported by granite columns on either side. The shape of the arches in the porch supported by brick pillars are scooped while the rest are cusped and little pointed. Simple tracery works are found in the outer and inner walls above these arches in the Arcade.

While the roof of the Portico is surrounded by a low brick wall with repeated *jali* works, the rest of the first floor Arcade has iron lattice work. Both the floors are connected by a seasoned teakwood staircase. There are two spiral iron staircases behind the administrative block. The floor of passage way in the façade originally was of Cuddapah slab. The doors opening into the corridor and to the Administration block are all of teakwood and the type of windows is that of the *harem* windows. The rest of the external appearance of the Stacks(Record Blocks) is symmetrical in design. The walls of the building built in 1907-09 had been constructed of red bricks and lime. There are three rows of Arched windows rhythmically designed running the length of the stacks. There are sixteen windows in a row on each length, eight in front and eight in rear entrance of the stack. The top row has pointed Arch windows and unpolished stone *voussoir* forming a decorative piece on its own while the rest of the two rows have arch shaped windows. The interior window frames and window sash are of teak wood. Ground glass has been used for window panes. The exterior windows in the bottom row have Iron shutters besides glass doors.

The roof of these stacks consists of a overhanging sheathing, the surface covered by cuddapah slabs and supported by horizontal wooden rafter running the length and breadth of each stack. This helps to shed rain water. The roof is supported by a low brick parapet wall flanked by *jali* works with details of geometrical designs arranged repeatedly. Underneath is embedded horizontal members featuring ornamental projections forming the Corbel cornice running all around the whole of the building. These *Corbels* that end up in corners form a beautiful trio creating a modest structure in its natural state. These *Corbel Cornice* are supported by stone stretcher supported

on the exterior wall. However there are no *Domes, Vaults and Towers* in this building architecture which were prevalent in the Indo-Saracenic style which was at its peak in the mid 19th century. However, the buildings' external design seems to have an admixture of some proportion of the Indo Saracenic style. The red bricks and tracery work imitating the gothic style, the floral motifs and use of corbel as used in Muqarnas in Islamic and Persian architecture, the use of cuddapah slabs and sandstones, teakwood, etc., of Indian style, all in its natural state depict late Indo-Saracenic style which started to fade away by the influence of modern materials in construction technology during the early 20th century.

Interior Design

The interior design has the impact of usage of materials like iron and steel culminating in more of functional rather than ornamental details, meeting the then new demands of centralizing the old records of the Government of Madras.

While planning the construction of the interiors of the building, two aspects, location and preservation of old records were taken into account. As for the location, the criterion was that the building to be located for a central record room should be spacious enough to accommodate the records to be transferred, once it was built as well as to provide space for the future inflow of records. Selection of the site, Egmore, was felt to be quite interior from the sea-shore which would save records in case of any naval attack through sea during the wars. The site with 4.81 acres was considered for construction of the building.

Normally the size, shape of the interior spaces that are connected and the materials employed for floors, walls, ceilings, furnishings of racks, shelves, windows, ventilators, their placement positions and sequence in designing the interior of the stacks, control all the environmental factors such as light, heat, humidity, dust, fire etc. that have far reaching implications on deterioration of records in tropical climate. The above environmental factors and the danger from biological agents like white ants and other insects like bookworm against which the records had to be preserved were also taken into account while designing the interiors of the stacks.

Basically the structure is one of the load bearing wall structure. The masonry is very thick at the bottom and reduced at the top so as to bear its own load, the load of the floors, roof and the iron racks inbuilt inside the stack area. The brick column forms the post and the lateral arches a form of lintel to the buildings. The entire brick construction provides for fire and weather resisting qualities. Each record stack is about

30 to 40 feet wide and 100 to 120 feet long. A bitumen road that circumvents the building helps to handle fire hydrants surrounding the building and a static water tank inside the compound has been designed as a necessary precautionary care in event of any fire in the building. A storm water drain has been provided to drain excèss water during the monsoon.

Windows And Doors

Windows are the principal means of controlling natural light. Its amount of the distribution, intensity, design and quality is conditioned by their number, size and shape and placement of translucent glass panes provided for diffused sun-light and not direct sunlight that affects records. Fenestration of rows of windows on either side of the wall enables for free flow of air and cross ventilation. There are 16 windows in each of the three rows on either side of the wall and eight each in front & back of the stacks in symmetrical form provide for shade, reduce the intensity of wind and direct sunlight. Each stack has been provided with two iron doors one at the entrance and the other at the rear end of the stack opposite to the entrance. The rear door serves as a fire exit and also for loading and unloading records as and when transferred to Archives.

Walls

Choice of materials is a practical planning function and an effective tool of environment. The preservation of records also depends on the right choice of materials and has to provide for a solution to the physical environment that is caused due to fire, termites, mould, and atmospheric changes. The Brick and lime (Chunam) walls in the exterior were designed to control the wind and heat by their thickness, structural and insulating materials used in them. The interior walls were provided with white glazed Newllite tiled dados[4], because of the range of its reflections and absorption of ultraviolet rays and the damp proof nature reduces moisture level and prevents mould formation.

Corridor

The corridor has been effectively designed for the direct and easy movement of trolleys carrying records to the stacks having in mind the required stability and durability. As for the floors, the entire carpet area of the interior of the building was closely laid with thick cuddapah slabs which provide stability, durability and adaptability. The six stacks are connected by connecting corridors to the common corridor. The common corridor has orientation of windows on either side of the walls providing ample lighting and free air circulation.

Ceiling

The ceiling has horizontal wooden rafters embedded in the thick brick side walls at the end and are bonded with masonry surface. Two heavy vertical steel beams support these wooden logs. The masonry is of brick and lime. There are nearly three horizontal rows of cowle ventilators and iron ladders for access to open terrace in all stacks.

Iron racks and Shelves

The record racks are positioned upright and the shelves are wholly made of galvanized iron. They are 22 ft tall, 15 ft long and 3 feet deep resting on a cast iron shoe, partitioned into three sections by two floors of iron gratings constructed above the ground floor. In all stacks, the racks are arranged on either side of a 7 feet wide central passage and at right angles to it, leaving a sub-passage, 3 feet wide between each rack; and each of these sub-passages, both on the ground floor and on the upper tiers, is lighted by a window. The central passage in the stack is purposefully made wide to allow the records to be easily carried on trollies to any part of the ground floor; and the gratings above the ground floor are provided with man holes through which the records can be taken to the upper tiers more easily than by the staircases provided at either end of the tiers. Use of iron and steel provides for stronger and taller structures. They have been used mostly in doors, window grills, racks and shelves - angles joined by bolts and rivets resulting in a rigid and continuous structure. To protect against corrosion, the whole of iron racks have been painted with three coats of white paint.The racks are so constructed that they can be easily removed and refixed elsewhere.

Additional Buildings

Additional buildings were constructed when more space was felt necessary to accommodate the inflow of records. The seventh record block was built in 1927 without much alteration with that of the existing ones. Seasoned teak wood was used for rack purposes. The eighth and ninth record blocks were constructed in 1938. These designs of the stacks were maintained to a limited extent. Modern concept of Architecture crept in due to advent of various materials like cement, iron and steel in the method and type of construction. A typical contrast in appearance is the shape of the windows with rectangular frame works and no use of ornamental structures could be seen but plain

and simple allowing to the extent of matching height and positioning of the original blocks built in 1909.

New Buildings

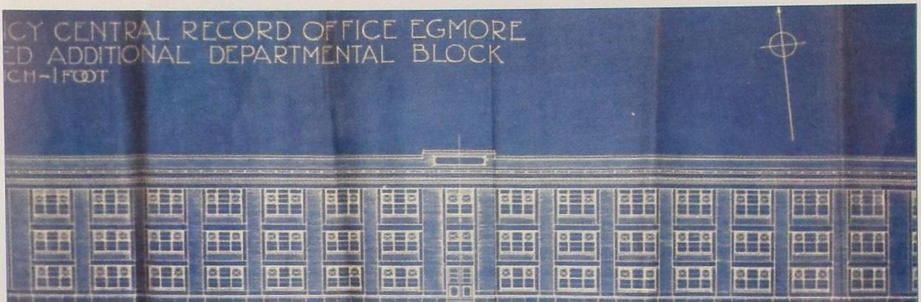
A new building for locating machineries such as fumigation, lamination and reprography was constructed in 1977. An additional floor to this was constructed for the purpose of mending section in 1995. A separate building for housing the Archival Library was constructed in 1998 and in 2009 two floors to this building have been added.

The design of the old red edifice, produced a meaningful form meeting the demands of centralizing the records of the Government. The buildings, simple in design with less ornamentation, marked a gradual departure from the highly decorative revival structures towards a modern and expressive functional styles. Turning a century it has withstood the test of time, taking care of the records it holds and thus needs appreciation on the accomplishment of those who created this fascinating superstructure.

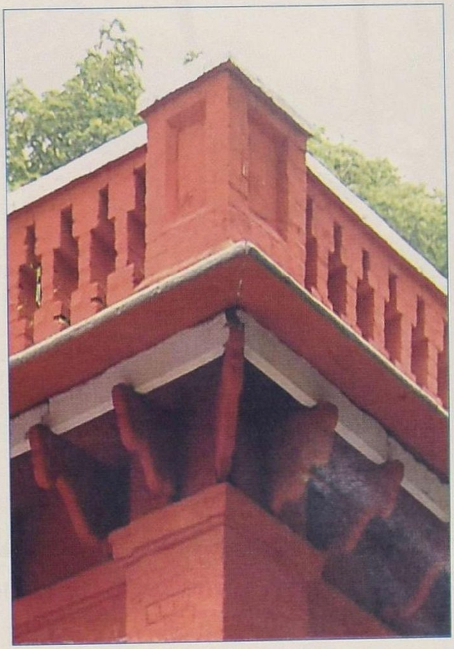
References

1. G.O. 149, Public dated 1.3.1906.
2. G.O. 929-30, PWD(W) dated 23.4.1906
3. G.O.86, PWD(W) dt. 9.8.1907
4. G.O.627, PWD(W) dated 16.5.1908

Facade of the Red Building in Indo-Saracenic Style - 1909



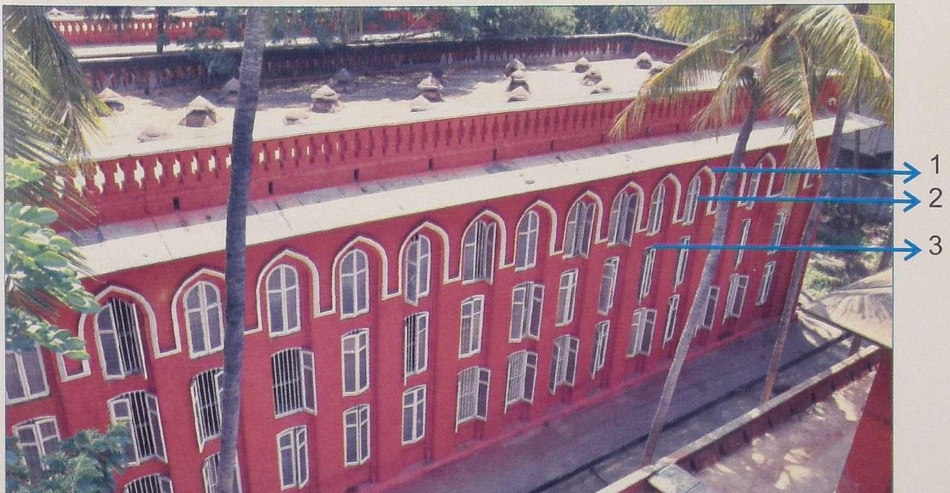
Additional Building Plan - 1938



Corbel Structure

Cowle Ventilators and Geometrically Arranged Jali Work

Symmetrical arrangement of Record Blocks (Stacks)



1. Voussoir
2. Arch shaped windows with Ground Glass
3. Arc shaped windows in two rows

EVOLUTION OF TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- ***Nasreen Sultana,*** *Assistant Commissioner (IR)*

- ***V. Gomathy,*** *Research Officer*

Concept of Archives

Archival organizations originated when people began to realize the importance of preserving their information for future use. The word 'Archives' is derived from the Greek word 'Archcion' which has been defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as 'a place in which public records or other historical documents are kept'.

Archives administration is a science adopted and practised all over the world today. Records are tools of administration. They are the memory of an organization, a family or an individual. Records embody past experiences, give evidence of progress and protect legal rights. Making arrangements for the orderly preservation of records is an important function of the Government.

The advent of the Europeans particularly the British witnessed the production of records in large scale due to administrative growth in various dimensions. They paid attention for preserving their records by establishing Archives both in national and regional levels in the Western model. The establishment of Imperial Records Department at Calcutta in 1898 (later National Archives) and Madras Record Office in 1909 (later Tamil Nadu Archives) are examples of their Archival sense. The formation of Indian Historical Record Commission in 1919 showed the interest of British on Indian records.

Archives is considered as the knowledge of past administration. They furnish information pertaining to the day-to-day administration of the prior Governments and their administrative systems. The earliest records such as those of the Public, Revenue, Judicial, Military, Marine, Political and Secret Departments give details of the past administration of social, political and economic matters which are considered as guidelines to be followed by the present administrators.

The records in the Archives bear evidence how the Europeans, particularly the English, ruled the country for more than three centuries. The British Government is popularly called the Paper Government because they recorded all matters on papers and preserved them for future reference. The value and importance of Archives were realized during the later part of the 18th century when the writing of national and regional history developed. When the volume of administration increased and the mode of

administration changed after the two World Wars the accumulation of records rapidly increased. This necessitated the record creating agencies to take control the accumulation by means of appraisal and destruction of records having ephemeral value. For doing these works and assessing the value of records, the interim repositories were established either in the Archives or in other places.

Tamil Nadu Archives

In India, Tamil Nadu occupies a unique place in the Archives administration. It is, perhaps, the first among the States to realize the administrative and historical values of Archives. Tamil Nadu Archives is a treasure house of records of more than three and a half centuries old and it is one of the largest Archives in South East Asia, maintaining a large number of records dating back to 1670 A.D. The then Government of Madras, geared up record maintenance to reclamate the accumulated public records under their custody from the dawn of 19th century.

The spurt of accumulation of records, in the second half of 18th Century compelled the Government to form a nucleus for Archives in 1805, when Lord William Bentinck was the Governor in Council at Fort St. George by centralizing the records of various Departments in the Secretariat. Afterwards it took nearly 103 years to establish a full-fledged Archives in the massive-red building at Egmore which came into being in 1909 with the nomenclature of "Madras Record Office". It was later christened as "Tamil Nadu Archives" with effect from 1968 and as "Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research" in 1973. The building was carefully designed and built with Archival principles in order to protect it from fire, dust, insects, etc. The holdings of the Tamil Nadu Archives are records of East India Company, records of Government Departments, Dutch records dating back to 1657 A.D. and other foreign language records of Danish, French and Persian etc.

Functions of the Archives

Records are preserved here on behalf of the Government for the use of the creating agencies and research scholars. There is inflow of Government records every year and as they are required for administrative purposes, they are well arranged, listed, indexed and preserved properly. The major activities of the Archives are to centralize all permanent records, to arrange them properly, to preserve them on scientific lines: to throw them open for historical research, and to make them promptly and readily available for official references.

The Government appointed George Garrow in 1837 to arrange the records and selection of records for valuable historical information and eliminate the unwanted records . He examined the Public Consultation records from 1677 to 1710. He was followed by W. Huddleston who continued the work for a short time in 1858. Talboys Wheeler, the noted historian was deputed by the Madras Government to make a report about the conditions and contents of the records preserved in Fort St. George. He examined the records from 1672 to 1854 as a result of which, he edited the '*Handbook to the Madras Records*' in which he listed out the table of chronological annals from 1639 to 1861. Again Huddleston came into the picture in 1871-73. He published some selections from the oldest records from 1670 to 1881. In 1890, Pringle offered to continue the work of selections out of the records.

Henry Dodwell was appointed as the first Curator of the Tamil Nadu Archives in 1911. He brought out many publications using Archival sources. In 1916, he published a report on the Secretariat Records of the pre 1857 period. For encouraging research, critical apparatus in the form of calendars of records were prepared by Dodwell. In order to make the records easily legible and accessible, the brittle and faded records were reprinted. During his period, mending of records in a scientific manner was started. He was the first architect to lay the foundation for the growth and development of the Tamil Nadu Archives. He was the first examiner of the Madras University from the Archives.

P. Macqueen I.C.S., who was posted as Curator in 1930 played a vital role in fostering research. He devoted interest in research and encouraged others also to do so. He made a classification of records into original sources and printed materials such as books, reports and journals. He prepared guides to the records for 18 districts in the form of catalogue of district records which are available in the Tamil Nadu Archives. Macqueen's period witnessed a great change in historical research in Tamil Nadu Archives. He provided all facilities to the scholars.

The appointment of Dr. B.S. Baliga as the Curator of the Tamil Nadu Archives enabled a further growth in the annals of Historical research in Tamil Nadu Archives. He himself was an eminent research scholar and produced valuable research books and articles. His ***Studies in Madras Administration*** (2 volumes) and Compendiums on various subjects are useful sources of information for knowing the political, economic and social life of the South Indians. Dr. B.S. Baliga was also the Editor, District Gazetteers, edited by him are still regarded as pioneering works.

Centralization of Records

Tamil Nadu Archives houses the records of various Departments of the Secretariat, pre 1857 records of the Collectorates and District courts, all the records of the extinct Departments, some records in Dutch, Danish, Persian etc. The Electoral Rolls from 1962 and all the books published in the State since the passing of the Press and Registration of Books Act of 1867 are centralized here.

In order to preserve the semi-current records, an Interim Repository has been functioning since June 1987. The main functions of this Repository are to centralize the records; supply of records on requisition from the government; appraisal of records before they are transferred to Archives.

Tamil Nadu Archives and the promotion of Historical Research

Tamil Nadu Archives is a rich mine of original sources, throwing light on the past to write a connected account of history on various matters. In order to utilize such sources, Dodwell, the then Curator of Tamil Nadu Archives proposed to discuss the encouragement of research in the first meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission at Simla in 1919 and 1920, Indian Historical Records Commission recommended that bonafide researchers should be given access to Government records. Accordingly, the rules and regulations for the research were first framed by the Government in G.O. No. 1024, Finance, dated 13.10.1921 and revised rules have been issued in G.O. No.58, Finance, dated 5.2.1932. The earliest researches into the old records were carried out by Tallboys Wheeler, Pringle, Dodwell, Galletti and J.J.Cotton who were all Civil Servants. It was not till the year 1930 that the Universities began to realize the richness of historical material within their reach. Access to records was permitted in this Archives since 1924 but the number of scholars was only 3 in 1930 and currently, an average of about 600 bonofide scholars from various Universities in India as well as abroad register their names for research every year.

For the research scholars there were no interruptions even during the Second World War, for consulting the records. During the Second World War though the original records were shifted to Chittoor and Palamaner, for safety reasons research students continued to consult records. All facilities were afforded to them in these two places to carry on their research. In 1950 the original records were shifted back to Tamil Nadu Archives. Initially, the researchers and scholars were accommodated in the stack rooms. As the number of scholars visiting the Archives increased, a well equipped Research Hall with reprographical facilities was opened in the premises.

Research Hall was modernized in 1998 to provide a conducive environment for research by providing air conditioning. In the year 2007, Research Hall was further refurnished so as to provide better ambience to research. Press-list, Guides, Publications *in extenso,* Calendars, Almanacs and Selections from Records are some of the research aids available for research. There are printed indices for reference. Besides this, there is an Archival Library which caters to the needs of the Research Scholars. The photo copies and microfilm of records are provided to bonafide scholars on payment.Till September 2009, almost 12,000 Research Scholars have accessed this Archives for Research on various topics in Social Sciences.

Tamil Nadu Council for Historical Research

The Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research constituted in the year 1973 has been functioning in Tamil Nadu Archives with the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education as its ex-officio Chair Person, the Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education and three eminent historians as members and Principal Secretary/ Commissioner of Archives as its ex-officio Member Secretary. The Council promotes historical research and awards research fellowships.In 1996, the University of Madras affiliated Tamil Nadu Archives as a centre for research in Modern History. So far 12 scholars have pursued researches and were awarded Ph.D. degrees.

District Record Centres

The Indian Historical Records Commission, in its 42nd session, had requested the State Government to open a maximum number of intermediate Record Centres on a priority basis in the States to collect and preserve the records laying in various field offices of the State Government, Keeping in view of the need to centralize and preserve the records on modern scientific lines, the Government of Tamil Nadu opened Record Centres at three places viz., Coimbatore, Madurai and Chidambaram (later shifted to Cuddalore)during 1981-82. Subsequently District Record Centres were established at Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur.The District Record Centres are functioning with the following main objectives:

(i) to centralize the records of more than 30 years old,lying scattered in the various Government offices in the Districts, which are of historical as well as of administrative value and to preserve them on modern scientific lines (ii) to prepare Indices and Catalogues for the records transferred to the custody of the District Record Centres; (iii) to serve as a centre for historical research and also to cater to the needs of administrators and (iv) for repairing and rehabilitating the records which are in brittle conditions.

Conclusion

The evolution of Tamil Nadu Archives has seen so many milestones and now functions as an ideal Archival institution. Modernization has its impact in all the spheres of Archival functions like digitization of records, improvement of infrastructure, adding more reprographical assistance in preservation of records etc.

Let these be our slogans:

"Preserve Records, for they
Deserve attention, you pay ".

"We preserve records with austerity—to
Be in touch with our posterity".

"Gold, no doubt, is valuable—but
Old Record is invaluable."

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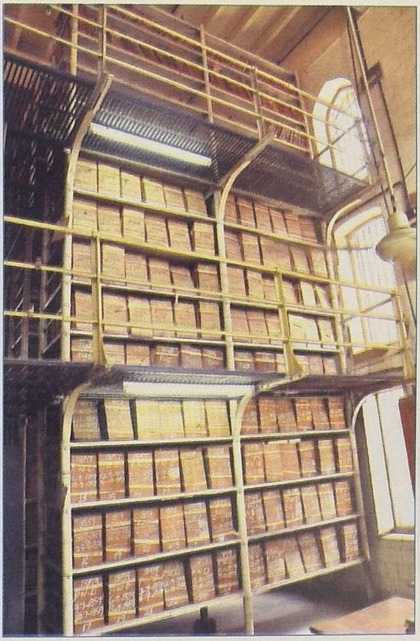
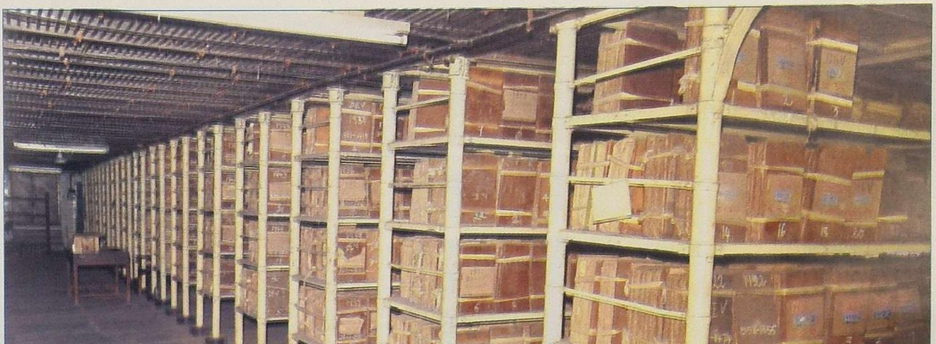
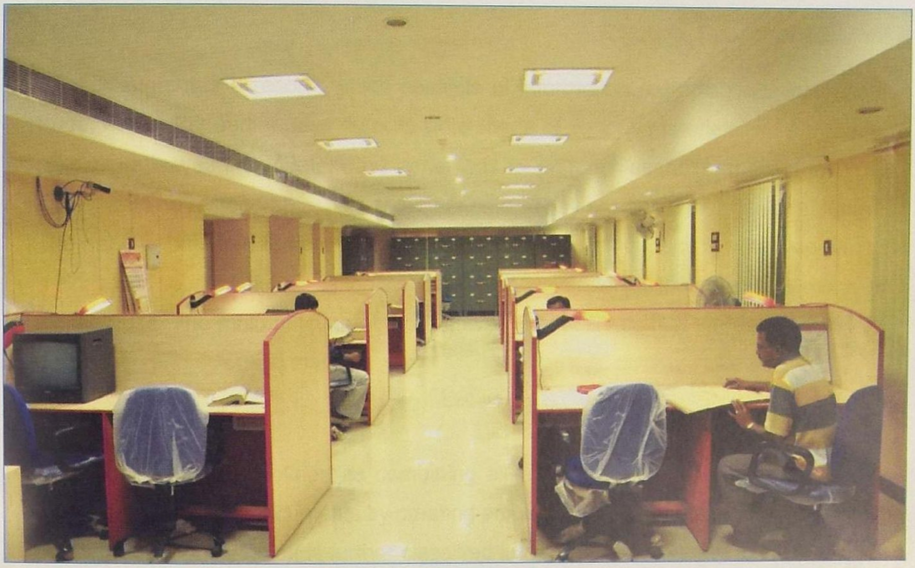


A view of Uniquely Designed Stack



Bundles of Records Arranged in a Stack



Research Hall - A view

The Conference Hall - First Floor

CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

- ***A.Rajappa**, Research Assistant*

Document is a record, which consists of information regarding administration, trade, etc. In the earlier days records were made of various materials like terracotta, silks, palm leaves etc. In later days paper was found much useful for making records. Documents have become a part of our heritage. They are made of organic materials. The need to preserve the archival documents is essential, especially when we aim at making vital sources of information available to administrators, scholars and researchers for their use. The main function of the Archives is conservation of the documents in a systematic and scientific manner.

Conservation

Conservation is defined as combining all operations which are carried out to prolong the life of the documents by creating ambient storage conditions and rectifying the defects. Conservation is further classified into i) Preservation and ii) Restoration.

Preservation means keeping the documents in the existing condition without spoil by creating favourable storage environment. ***Restoration*** means re-strengthening the damaged documents and bring the documents back to the original condition. The deterioration occurs in documents mainly in one or more of the following physiochemical situations:

1.Heat and exposure to light; 2.Moisture (which besides constituting a hydrolytic danger also favours biological attack and deterioration due to fungi, insects etc).; 3.Frequent and pronounced changes in temperature and humidity; 4.Acidic impurities (such as those present in the atmosphere of Industrial areas, dust, strong alkalis which are also injurious and which contribute to the deterioration of paper); 5.Oxidising agents; 6.Presence of heavy metals, which catalyze oxidative degradation. (Sulphuric acid which is also formed from the sulphurdioxide present in the atmosphere); 7.Presence and use of acidic such as alum, rosin etc.; 8.Presence and use of acidic inks; 9.Use of fibres with low cellulose content and presence of non – cellulose material (like lignin which, during paper making process, yield acidic derivatives upon decomposition).

Thus deterioration is caused by three factors i.e. physical factors, biological factors and chemical factors. The deterioration can be checked by adapting conservation techniques and the entire process of conservation is involved with chemistry. Bio deterioration is caused by micro organisms like fungus / fungi, bacteria, mould, mildew

and macro organisms like cockroach, silver fish, bookworm, book lice (psocids), termites or white ants. This deterioration could be checked by fumigation of documents. In the vacuum fumigation chamber process, the fumigants used are carbon-dioxide and Ethylene Oxide. The fumigants Thymol, Paradichloro benzene (solid) carbon tetrachloride (liquid) are used in Airtight Chamber fumigation.

Agents which cause physical deterioration are light, heat and moisture, which bring about photochemical, hydrolytic, oxidative changes in paper. This deterioration differs from the damage caused by Biological factors. The outward signs are yellowing and progressive embrittlement. This deterioration can be determined by measuring alpha-cellulose, copper number and viscosity in cuprammonium solution, folding, bursting and tensile strength of paper.

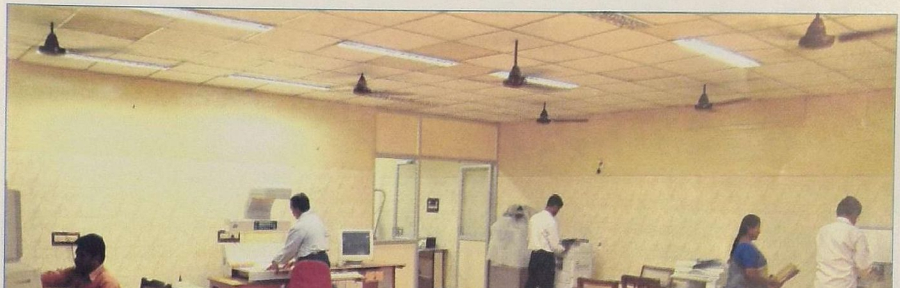
The adhesive used for repair of documents in Tamil Nadu Archives is maida paste with copper sulphate and glycerine. This Archives has highest holdings of records in India and it has been practicing conservation techniques thoroughly. Vacuum Fumigation Chamber, having the capacity of 500 cubic feet imported from United States of America is used for fumigation process. Restoration (Mending) unit, which has technocrats of 39 Preservation Clerks and 9 Binders is engaged in repairing the damaged documents. Reprography Unit, one of the well equipped units in India, comprises Microfilm Camera, Microfilm Scanner, Book Scanner, Sophisticated Photocopiers, Automatic film processor, Microfilm Reader *cum* printer and Microfilm Repository with huge collections.

Tamil Nadu Archives preserves not only our public documents but also our culture, history, tradition, heritage and the pride of our State.

Mending Section

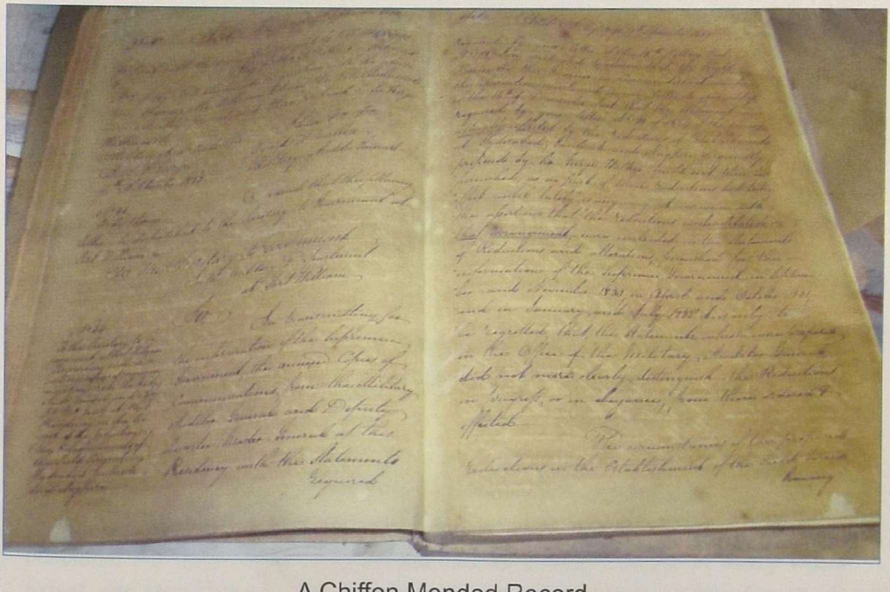
Lamination of Books

Mended Records Dried in Drying Racks



Reprography Section

Binding Section



A Chiffon Mended Record

UNIQUE DOCUMENTS

- C. Hemalatha, Research Officer

The archival materials that are housed in the Tamil Nadu Archives are comprehensive, valuable and historically important and they help in the reconstruction of history. Some of the unique, rare and valuable documents are as follows.

Dedication of St.Mary's Church at Fort St.George

There was no separate Church or Chappel in the settlement of Madras till 1680 when St.Mary's Church was built in Fort St.George. The dedication ceremony was held on Thursday, the 28th October 1680. The text of the minutes is found in the consultation held on Monday, the 25th October 1680 which "*forwards all public divine service to be performed*". The foundation of this Church was laid on Lady's Day in 1678 [1].The Church was named St.Mary's in honour of the Blessed Virgin on whose Annunciation Day the work was begun. Governor Streynsham Master laid the first stone for the Church.

Construction of the General Hospital, Chennai

In December 1756, the Company had a hospital for Squadron and King's Regiment. Towards the end of the year, the hospital and the adjacent buildings were demolished and the hospital was transferred to some houses nearby. After the siege of Madras by the French, the hospital was transferred to houses near the site of the present General Hospital.[2]

Colonel Call, the Engineer to Government wrote to Government that the site where Company's Garden stood called *Hog Hill* was suitable for construction of the hospital with good conveniences. The council agreed *Hog Hill* as the right place for the hospital. By October 1772, construction of the hospital had been finished.

Death of Napoleon

On 8th May 1821 Lieutinent – General and Governor of St.Helena had informed that Napoleon Bonaparte expired on the 5th of that month "at about 10 minutes before 6 'O' clock in the evening after an illness which had confined him to his apartments since the 17th of March". The cause of the death as recorded in the ***Foreign Consultation*** dated 7, August 1821 runs as follows : "*The stomach was discovered to be the seat of extensive disease, there being an ulcer near the pyberus which had punctured the coats of the stomach the internal surface of which to nearly whole extent, was stated to be a mass cancerous disease or of schirrous portis advancing to cancer". His father also had died of the same disorder at an early age."* [3]

The Trial and Hanging of Veerapandia Kattabomman

Kattabomma Naigue or Naik was considered by the British to be the most daring and violent of all the southern Poligars. When the Company undertook the management of the Province one of their first acts was to settle the boundries of the several Poliems or Zamindaries. Lieutenant. Maxwell was entrusted with the duty of putting down rebellions. Kattabomma Naigue refused to surrender to him. The Company was waiting for an opportunity to settle scores with Kattabomme Naigue and he was arrested for various reasons. According to the **Revenue Consultation Record** of 8th November, 1799, the Poligar of Panchalankurichi was hanged in open so that the rest of the poligars would witness all that passed. The manner in which he was caught, his trial and execution by Major Bannerman, the Commandant, are available in the records.[4]

Mysore Affairs

In 1781, after the war with Hyder Ali, Warran Hestings was strongly in favour of securing the support of the Hydrabad Nizam against Hyder Ali but the Governor of Madras, Macartney was opposed to the plan.[5] Three years later in consequence of the Treaty of Versailles, Macartney was negotiating for peace with Tipu Sultan. His Private Secretary Sir George Staunton and two civil servants were sent over to the West Coast while Tipu was besieging Mangalore.[6] The third Mysore war led to extensive cessions on the part of Tipu and the fourth to the complete disappearance of Mysore as a power.[7] These details are found in the Record of ***Military Sundry No.66***.

Erection of a statue for Sir Thomas Munro

Sir Thomas Munro came out as a cadet in the Madras Army in 1780. He served as the Assistant Collector and Collector in various districts. He is regarded as the father of the Ryotwari system. He was the President of the Commission for Reforms, introduced during the Governorship of Hugh Elliot. He became the Governor of Madras in 1827. Sir Thomas Munro is widely regarded today for the pioneering work, he did in the field of education. He instituted an enquiry into the state of education in the Madras Presidency in 1822 and was thus instrumental in initiating a wide ranging process of reforms in the sphere of education.[8] The original reports of the enquiry is found in his ***Minutes dated 25 June 1822***.

Sir Thomas Munro died of cholera at Pattikonda in the Ceded Districts on 6th July 1827.[9] The memory of the greatness of Sir Thomas Munro was cherished by the people of the Presidency. During a meeting of the inhabitants of Madras on

21 July 1827, it was resolved to erect a statue in his memory and the statue was erected in the year 1829 on Mount Road near Island ground.

Salt Satyagraha

The origin of the Civil Disobedience Movement was stated to be the declaration of Independence at the Lahore session of Congress on 26 January 1930 but it actually began with Gandhi's march to Dandi and the Salt Satyagraha in April 1930 lasting until about the middle of May. The movement tended to assume specialized forms in various places . In Madras Presidency, on 13th April 1930 C.Rajagopalachari started his salt march from Trichirappalli to Vedaranyam. In the, then South Arcot District one Nainiappan, on instruction from Rajaji, started the Salt Satyagraha in Kille near Chidambaram with 5 volunteers. He left Chidambaram for *Shiyali* (Sirkali) on 15th April stating that he was going to take part in the Vadaranyam Salt Satyagraha but returned to Cuddalore on 17th and spoke at a meeting in Gadilam sands deploring the English. He said that the Englishmen were sticking to India like leeches and just as leeches could be removed only by putting salt on them, Salt Satyagraha was the only remedy to drive Englishmen out of India.

All the original records on the Salt Sathyagraha, like the reports of the Collectors to the Governor, courses of the salt march, punishment imposed on leaders and volunteers etc., are found in the various files of archival records.

Picketing

Rajaji complained to Mr. Crombe, Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras about the prohibitory orders declared by the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Ranipet by which peaceful picketing of liquor shops had been prevented (23rd September 1931) which had been against the views expressed by the Select Committee appointed to examine the matter. The select committee had recommended the withdrawal of the order and restore the right to peaceful picketing. The G.O.No.1219, Public (GI), dated 03-12-1931 and News paper clippings attached to the file have the above the information.[10]

Thus the records help the historians in the reconstruction of various aspects of administrative, economic, social and political history and to unmask various hidden episodes of historical events.

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6. Military Sundry No.60-62 (4325 -4327).
7. Military Sundry No.66 (4385).
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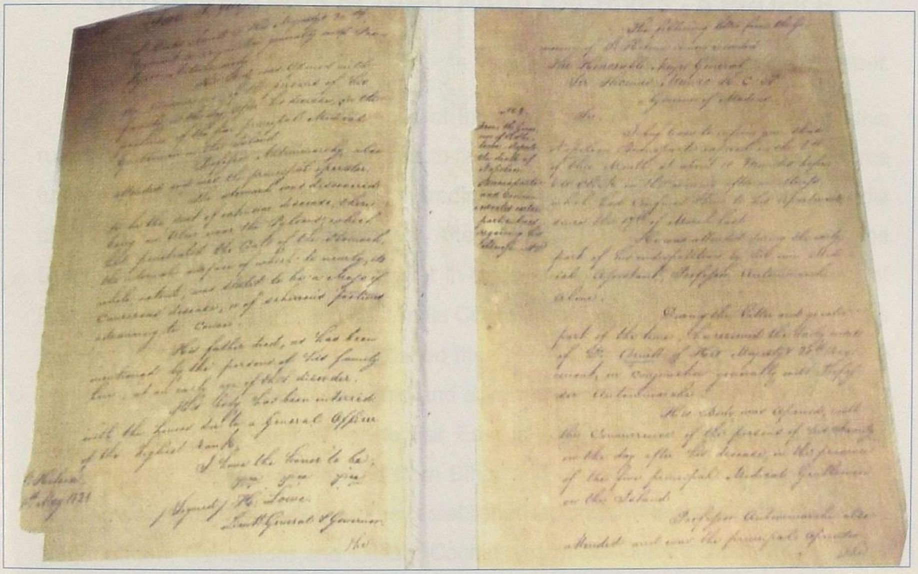
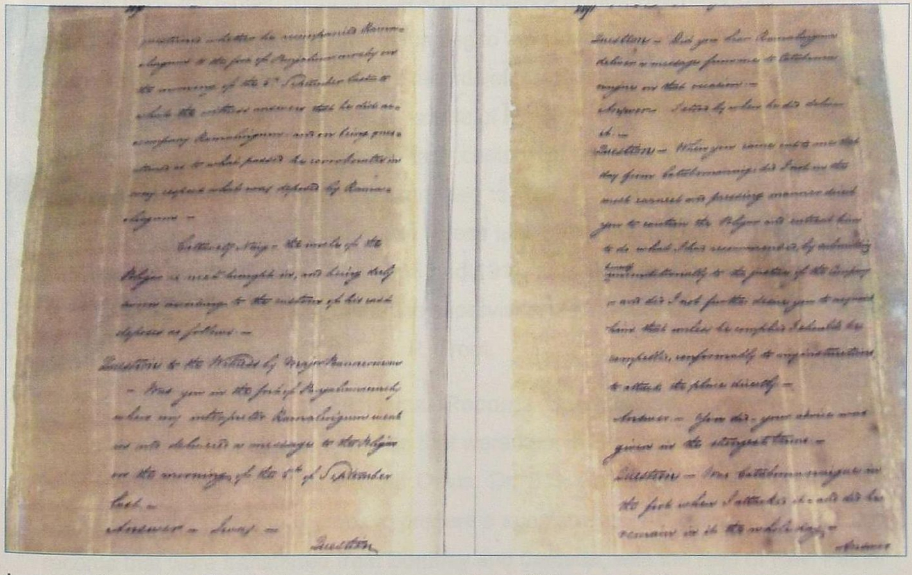


A Record Proclaiming the Death of Napoleon Bonaparte
(*Foreign Consultation, 7th August 1821*)



Leaves from the Records on the Execution of Veerapandiya Kattabomman
(*Revenue Consultation Record of 8th Nov. 1799*)

DUTCH RECORDS IN TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES - A PROFILE

*-**V.V.Kalavathy**, Research Assistant.*

The abundant natural resources of India and the richness of the Indian Native rulers tempted the European countries to find new sea routes to India. Vascoda Gama fulfilled their desire and the European trading companies arrived at the coasts of India colonised and carried out their trades. After the decline of the Portuguese power, the Dutch traders emerged as a big power in trade and politics, till the establishment of British rule in India. The Dutch East India Company of Holland (now Netherlands) was founded in 1602. The Dutch established their Head Quarters at Batavia where spice trade dominated. They supplied gold and silver to India, traded Indian fine textiles to Europe and coarse textiles to the Far East in exchange of spices for European consumption. Opium was traded from Bihar and exported *via* Hooghly and Surat. Textiles were exported *via* Surat. They established factories at Devanampatnam, Pulicat, Nagapatnam, Cannanore and Quilon. Cochin was under Dutch control from 1663 to 1795. These changed hands with the English several times in the alternatives of war and peace. Commercial rivalry among the European settlers paved the way for the decline of Dutch power in India.

In 1890, the Government of India at the instance of the Government of Netherlands enquired whether any documents belonging to the old factories of the Dutch East India Company could be traced among the records of the districts in which the factories were situated. The result was that the Collectors of Malabar and Chingleput sent a number of Dutch records which had been in their custody to the then Madras Record Office. The task of examining them was entrusted to Rev. A. J. Heylingers of the Catholic Mission, Madras, who completed the 'Press List' of the Ancient Dutch Records from 1657 to 1825 in 1896. Between 1908 and 1911, selections from these records were printed at the suggestion and under the supervision of Mr. A.C. Galletti, I.C.S., assisted by Rev. A. J. Van Der Burg and Rev. P. Groot.

In 1931, the Indian Historical Records Commission recommended the consolidation of all the Dutch records that were kept in Bombay and Bengal and their centralization in the Madras Record Office. Dr. B.S. Baliga the then Curator of the Madras Record Office took steps to prepare a supplementary catalogue for the Dutch records that were transferred from Bombay and Calcutta, with the help of Rev. Father J. Furytier and this was published in 1952.

The Archives of the world's first multinational, the Dutch East India Company better known by its Dutch logo VOC (DE Verenigde Oost Indische Compangie) contains an impressive amount of information on the Asian societies with whom the company traded in early modern times. Documentary evidence of these Dutch-Asian contacts is preserved in the Netherlands Archives as well as in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

In Tamil Nadu Archives, the Dutch records pertaining to the period from 1657 to 1845 are found in 1763 volumes. They contain valuable materials in the series dealing with the relations of the Dutch with the country powers in Malabar and their correspondence with Batavia and Colombo. It is interesting to note that the Dutch letters to various destinations bear different red wax seal impressions. There were seven types of seals such as a sailing ship, small coat of arms etc. There is a letter in native language from a Dutch merchant to the King of Travancore regarding the supply of provisions with a floral seal on red wax. The Dutch Governor Adrain Moens had sent a letter in 1776 to *Nabab Heder Alikhan Baader* (Hyder Ali Khan).

The Dutch records contain a lot of information about Tamil Nadu too. They even contain types of documents that have disappeared in other places of the world. These documents not only tell the story of the Dutch in India but also give an overview of the political, economical, social and cultural situation around the Dutch trading posts. These records also dwell very often on the courts of the native Indian rulers. They are therefore of great importance for the compilation of the Indian history of the yester years.

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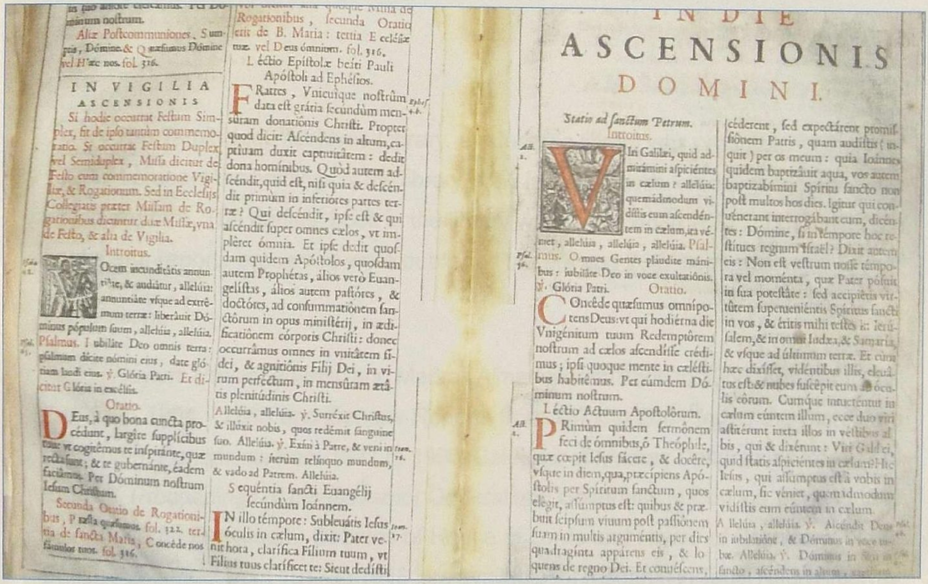
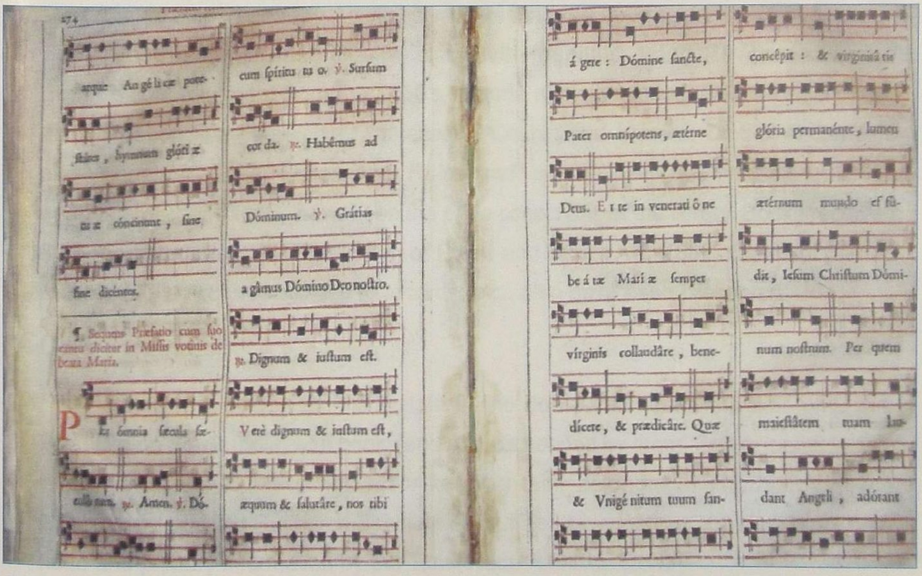
R. Vaidyanathan, *Communication History of the Dutch in India.*





Pages from Dutch Volume (1657)

TAMILNADU ARCHIVES LIBRARY

- **S. Ponnambalam,** *Library Assistant*

- **A.M. Sabesan,** *Library Assistant*

The Tamil Nadu Archives Library, a reference library was organized in the year 1923. At present the holdings of the library is 2.3 lakhs of books, reports, and periodicals which are rare. The earliest book in the library was published in 1633 A.D. Most of the books and reports preserved were published in 19th and 20th Centuries.

Collections

Asylum Press Almanac and Madras Almanac from 1800 to 1950, Army and Civil lists from 1804 - 1960 and Census Reports from 1871 to 2001 for all the States are preserved. Periodicals from 1831 to 1980, Calendar of Madras Despatches from 1744 to 1765, Proceedings of the Governor General and Governors in Council from 1856 to 1920 have been housed. Debates of House of Lords and House of Commons of the British Parliament from 1917 to 1948 are available for research in Tamil Nadu Archives Library. Madras Legislative Council Proceedings, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debates and Constitutional Assembly Debates have been well preserved and are available for researches.

Annual Reports on the Administration of the Madras Presidency, Department of Public Instruction, Public Health and Civil Hospitals, Land Revenue, Famine Commission, etc., right from the 1850's; reports of Native Indian States in the British administration like Pudukottai, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore; District Gazetteers and Manuals for Indian States; Acts, Rules, and various Codes of Government of India and State of Tamil Nadu, have been the pride collections of the library. Books received from the authors under Registration of Press and Books Act, 1867, copies of printed records of the Archives, guides to records, etc., also have been preserved.

Library Services

This Library serves for the scholars who do researches in the field of Social Sciences on South India, with books and reports needed by them. Safety locker facility is also available to the scholars for keeping their belongings. The needs of the Government and the Research Scholars are fulfilled by supplying the necessary first-hand and primary information by the Tamil Nadu Archives Library.

Facilities in the Library

Reprographic facilities like photocopies and microfilms are available to scholars on payment. About 6000 rare books are available in the form of microfilm.

Preservation of Books

Books are fumigated in the specially designed fumigation Chamber to eradicate the pests and fungus. For long life, books were being mended with Chiffon Clothes and also with acetate-foil and Tissue Lamination methods. At present these methods of preservation are replaced by adopting Polyester film Lamination with a special half leather binding.

Automation Facility

In the library, books were being searched through Author and Title Catalogue along with the Classified Catalogue Cards. The system of online searching of books with the help of the Computerized Catalogue has been installed for the benefit of readers.

Reprinting of Rare Books

Private Publishers are encouraged to re-print the old and rare books available in Archives Library without hindering the Copy Right Act. Accordingly books published before 75 years are allowed for reprinting.

Rare books

Tamil Nadu Archives Library has a collection of rare and old books. A description of a few books is given below:

Voyage To Suratt

VOYAGE TO SURATT, a travel account by Ovington, E, published in the year 1696, is one of the earliest published books available in the Tamilnadu Archives Library. Ovington describes the events, during his travels, since his departure from England in April 1689 in the ship named *Benjamin* towards the intended voyage to Surat, now a textile city in the State of Gujarat in India. In this book, the author gives a fair account of all places, the expedition came across, in the course of the voyage and its return. The places dealt with are Island of Madeira, Malemba on the coast of Africa, Island of Bombay, Island of Elephanta, Cape of Good Hope etc. The sufferings of the English Voyage Team at the hands of the Moors in Surat also have been explained.

War With Tippoosultan

The book *War With Tippoosultan* published in the year 1793, is a narrative of the campaign in India by the British Army, which led to the termination of the war with Tipoosultan in 1792. The war with Tipoosultan is illustrated with maps and plans. The book contains a picture of the North East view of Seringapattinam drawn by I. Smith from a view taken on the spot. The Book is authored by Major Dirom, the then Deputy Adjutant General of the British Forces in India. The war with Tipoosultan is divided into three campaigns. The narration contains detailed transactions and operations as they occurred during the last campaign. The remarks added in the concluding chapter may be useful to form an idea of the consequences of the war.

Historical Record of the Third, or King's Own Regiment of Light Dragoons

This book, compiled by Richard Cannon and published in the year 1847 is about the military History of Great Britain. The entire book speaks about the military Regiment called Third, or King's Own Regiment of Light Dragoons. It contains information about the period and circumstances of the original formation of the Regiment in 1685 and its subsequent services up to 1846. It also provides information about the stations at which, from time to time, the regiment was stationed and the achievements it has formed in battles and military operations. Names of officers and the military personnel who have committed brave deeds for cause of their Nation are also portrayed in this book.

Folk - Songs of Southern India

The book authored by Charles E. Gover, was published in the year 1871. The folk-songs in South Indian languages such as Tamil, Canarese, Badaga, Coorg, Telugu and Malayalam were translated into English in the book. Folk- songs pertaining to death, life, friendship, god, body and soul in Canarese and Badaga songs related to the next world of the dead are also found place in the book. Harvest songs called Coorg Ruttari and wedding songs from Coorg folklore are also narrated. Coorg funeral songs and Tamil folk songs on rituals and religious practices also have been documented.

Pulicatta [(Pulicat) (1913)]

Some antiquarians maintain that Pulicatta, or Pulicat is a corruption of the Tamil word Palayavairkadu old (dye) root town. Others are equally certain that 'Pulicat' is the anglicised corruption of Pallikadu (the town of Pallis). Some also interpret Pulicat as *Pavazhakadu* (the Coral Town), *Pulikadu* (the place of jungle of tigers) and Pallakadu (the lowlying town). It is about 50 km. to the north of Chennai. It was a old Dutch

settlements where they had their fort *Geldria.* There is an old Church and funeral yards of the Dutch with artistic tomb stones. The Dutch deposited their costly merchandise and surplus money in Pulicat. They had to retreat on two occasions when Pulicat was sacked by Tipoo's troops. This book deals with the history of Pulicat and the socio-economic life of the people and the Dutch Settlement on the Coromandal Coast.

Conclusion

Certain books have relevance to certain periods. Some books depend upon the subject matters. A book becomes outdated after some time when new innovations are made in the subject field of the Book. But some books attain eternity and never become outdated and are called rare books. Such books are well preserved in libraries adopting various preservation techniques for the generations to come.

Tamil Nadu Archives Library - Front View

Bookshelves in the Library

GAZETTEER WRITING IN TAMIL NADU

- ***R. Sinnakani,*** *Editor - Gazetteers*

Gazetteers - Concept and Development

Gazetteers are the works of national importance and have a definite role to play in national life and developments. They are unique combination of historical, social, economic, administrative and topographic details. The word 'Gazetteer' is derived from Italian word 'Gazetta' which literally means a treasure of news; it is generally understood to signify a geographical index or dictionary or a guide book of important places and people. But with the passage of time, its range has vastly widened and it has come to mean a veritable voyage of discovery or a mine of knowledge concerning numerous dimensions of human life and of the country or region they inhabitate. In the West during the, 6th century A.D. the magnum opus of Stephen of Byzantium Empire and Doomsday Book compiled by William are normally cited as earliest Gazetteer forms. Lawrance Echard first employed the term *Gazetteer* in the sense of geographical index and information in 1704.

Gazetteer Writing in India

India, a country of traditions provided more systematic works of the nature. Right from the earliest times, attempts have been made by the scholars as well as court historians to compile the relevant data for the guidance of the rulers. In ancient India, such a manual compiled was Kautilya's Arthasastra, a compendium on Mauryan Age. Abul Fazel's Ain-i Akbari and the travel accounts of Marco Polo, Fahien and Hiuen Tsang are outstanding works which are normally counted to resemble the spirit and elements of Gazetteers. They may rightly be regarded as pre cursors of Gazetteers.If we trace the concept and similar work of gazetteer in the Tamil country, it is the Sangam literary works especially *Purananuru* and *Pathupattu and Silappathikaram* which highlight the polity, history, socio-cultural aspects, including the ancient geography of Tamil Nadu. However, the concept of gazetteer in the real sense developed and assumed significance during the British period when the rulers confronted with complex problems in dealing with Indian affairs and the need for effective governance made it imperative for them to know more about their subjects. The colonial British administration in India took up military, revenue, and statistical survey to help and stabilise its position in India.

Several gazetteers relating to India were published by both Governmental and non- Governmental agencies. Some of them are Mr. Walter Hamilton's *East India*

Gazetteer', Edward Thornton's *Gazetteer of Territories under the Government of the Viceroy of India and the Native States on the Continent of India,* and '*a Gazetteer of South India*' published in Madras in 1858, by Pharoah and Company. Edward Thornton's Gazetteer was the first of its kind when it was presented to the public. Richard Temple published the Official Gazetteer of the Bhandra district of the Central Province around 1866. This set the pace and there appeared a number of gazetteer volumes concerning various parts of the country. Subsequently, in 1881, at the instance of the Government of India, Dr. W.W. Hunter, the then Director - General of Statistics to the Government of India brought out in nine volumes of the '*Imperial Gazetteer of India*.' Between 1885 and 1887, Dr. W.W. Hunter revised these Gazetteers and issued them in 14 Volumes. In this period, Gazetteers were compiled and published for the districts in the various Provinces in British India.

Pre-Independence Gazetteers (Manuals and Gazetteers)

The preparation of the Manual was a pioneering venture started by the Government of Madras. The Manuals of the Madras Presidency were the harbingers of the Imperial Gazetteer conceived at a later period.Government of Madras took a decision by 1862 to bring out Manuals for each district. The compilation was entrusted with the respective district Collector or other suitable district level officials. The Government did not prescribe any outline or area of coverage of the Manuals and each author was free to choose their style. The erstwhile Madras Presidency had 21 districts and the first Manual written was on Madurai district by J.H. Nelson called "Madura Manual" in 1868. A few Manuals published were exceptionally scholarly work. The manuals were prepared with the assistance of all the Government Officials. The native officials in the collectorate with higher erudition in Tamil and local history assisted the authors of the Manual to a larger extent in studying the local sources. Between 1868 and 1895, ten District Manuals were prepared. They were for the composite districts of South Arcot (J.H. Garstin, 1878), Tiruchirappalli (Lewis Moore, 1878) Chengalpattu (C.S. Crole, 1879), Tirunelveli (A. J. Stuart, 1879), The Nilgiris (H.B. Grigg, 1880), North Arcot (Arthur F. Cox, 1881), Salem (H.Le Fanu 1883), Thanjavur (T.V. Rao,1883) and Coimbatore (F.A. Nicholson, 1887), Harold .A.Stuart brought out the revised edition for North Arcot in 1894. On the lines of the District Manuals, the native Chieftains of Ramnad and Pudukottai had also brought out Manuals of their country through eminent scholars. From 1906 to 1918, gazetteers were published for the districts of Madurai (W. Francis, 1906), Thanjavur (F.R. Hemingway, 1906) South Arcot(W. Francis1906), Tiruchirappalli (F. R. Hemingway, 1907), The Nilgiris (W. Francis, 1908) Tirunelveli (H.R. Pate 1917), Salem (F. J. Richards, 1918).

Supplements

District Gazetteers were prepared formerly by the Collectors of the concerned districts. Government decided to revise as well supplement the Gazetteers. For the first time in the Tamil Nadu Archives, the revision and preparation of supplements to the Gazetteers commenced during the time of J.J.Cotton (1926-27) who took charge of both Editor and Curator. In 1930s statistical supplements for the Gazetteers were published. They were mostly edited by C.A. Souter, the then Commissioner of Land Revenue with the help of K.N. Krishnaswami Ayyar as Assistant Editor.

The old District Manuals and District Gazetteers prepared in the latter half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century were valuable sources of information about the districts. For these Gazetteers the statistical parts were updated and published as second volumes for these gazetteers between 1928 and 1935. In course of time the statistics collected and featured in these gazetteers became out of date. One of the notable omissions in the Manuals and the Gazetteers were the failure to document the district's contribution in the National Movement. The Editors stopped the History chapter at the British occupation of the districts. Though written by the British nationals or loyalists to the British Government, mostly 'objectivism' is seen in the compilation, except the omission of recording people's sentiments and their movement against the Government.

Post - Independence Gazetteers (Revision and re-written)

It was in the year 1954, that the Government of Madras decided to prepare a set of new gazetteers for all the districts. The work of revising and rewriting the District Gazetteers was begun in the Madras State in 1954. (G.O. Ms.No. 867, Revenue dated 6.4.1954). Dr. B.S. Baliga, the then Curator, Madras Record Office, was entrusted with the work of revision of the Gazetteers. He evolved a scheme of chapter headings and completed the preparation of drafts for four districts namely Thanjavur, Madurai, South Arçot and Coimbatore. In 1958, the Government of India formulated a scheme for revision the District Gazetteers in all States. Under the scheme, a new pattern containing 19 Chapters for the revision of gazetteers so that all district gazetteers rewritten in the country may have a broad degree of uniformity. A separate Gazetteer Unit was set up in Tamil Nadu in the year 1961. Since then the uniform pattern of chapterisation and content alike have been followed in writing the Gazetteers.

Gazetteers published

Gazetteers for Thanjavur (1957), Madurai (1960), South Arcot (1962), Coimbatore (1966), Salem (1967), Ramanathapuram (1972), Pudukkottai (1983), Dharmapuri (1995), Kanniyakumari (1995), The Nilgiris (1995), Composite Tiruchirappalli (1998),

erstwhile Chengalpattu (2000), Tirunelveli (2002) and Thoothukudi (2007) have been published according to the uniform pattern.

Conclusion

The Gazetteers are the encyclopaedia of the districts concerned containing authentic information. They are useful for reconstructing the history of the districts. The detailed chapters on different subjects provide a succinct and successive narrative of the all-round development of the districts. The Chapter, Places of Interest reminds of our cultural heritage and supplies interesting and valuable information on diverse antiquities available in the districts. They are useful for administrators, scholars, planners and the public.

District Gazetteers

Archives and State Administration

- ***N.Govindaraju**, Assistant Editor*

Tamil Nadu Archives besides its technical duties of preservation, classification, indexing and looking after the safety of the records, has been playing a vital role in State's administration. It has to furnish daily information and records to the various departments of the Secretariat, on varied matters that arise in day today administration.

A renowned archivist has observed that the very object with which the records are preserved is to make them readily available for assisting administration (*Dr.B.S.Baliga, Indian Archives Vol.VIII No.2, July - December 1954*). The Archives preserves the papers on the achievements and aspirations of the past governments, contains volumes of records on administrative, economic and social schemes. The records preserved bear the most considered views and ideas of the most experienced statesmen, administrators and legislators of the past on a variety of vital matters of public interest. Reports of the special officers appointed for various administrative, and judicial functions, committees constituted to go into multifarious issues of the state, and the heads of the departments and also the remarks, opinions and orders of the government, are stacked in the Archives. There are also files containing the comments made in the press and on the platforms and the discussions and resolutions of the legislature.

Right from its beginning in 1805 in the secretariat or from 1909 when it became a separate establishment, the services of the Madras Record Office or Tamil Nadu Archives have been marked indispensable. In the words of an erudite archivist the role of the Tamil Nadu Archives as a tool to administration by 1954 is as follows:

"Wherever the Archives are properly organised, the administrators, of course, make use of them for carrying out day to day administration. The degree, to which this use is made, however, varies from state to state. In Madras considerable use is made of the Archives.The Madras Record Office sends out annually on requisition to the various departments of the Secretariat and other offices about 35000 records for reference and consultations. It also undertakes about 800 searches on intricate or difficult questions annually. It moreover supplies full notes based on a study of records on all important matters of policy and reform referred to it by the government ...... The statesmen and administrators should not forget that the archives are primarily preserved for their use and they contain innumerable valuable suggestions for reform and reconstruction." (*Dr.B.S.Baliga* - ***Studies in Madras Administration***,(Volume II) "***The Importance of Archives for National Reconstruction*** - Government of

Madras 1960 p.388). Though recorded in 1954 the traditions and duties of Tamil Nadu Archives still continue with necessary changes.

The administrators sometimes seemed to think that the past could have nothing to offer to the present generation which was much more advanced in every year. The assumption was erroneous. They should consider all suggestions for change and reform which the archives have to offer. Whenever an important change or reform is contemplated, it is pertinent to ask archivists to furnish all available information bearing upon the subject. The archivists should then collect the information and incorporate it in a clear, comprehensive note for the use of the government.

Housing the records, looking after its safety and preservation, classification and arrangement alone are not only duties of an archivists. He needs to devote his equal attention to fulfilling the needs of administrators, which is the chief object with which the archives are preserved and looked after. The memories of the administrators may be short and their means may be insufficient for collecting all the required information from the huge collections of archives. The archivists are the most competent person to furnish readily all available information in a proper form to the administrators.

For making State policies, drafting Bills, issuing proclamation, legislating laws, signing treaties, passing resolutions, taking decisions, conducting interstate meetings, executing agreements on common issues and for issuing government orders on day to day administration, the Archives stands as an indispensable supporting organ for the government by providing all back papers, reports, legislative speeches, etc., and every paper needed by the government in original.

Indeed, no public policy can be revised, no important change in any branch of administration can be introduced without a study of the records available in the office. The records being authentic survival of all past as well as the present transactions of the government are maintained in continual official custody. They have not only undoubted historical value but also unquestionable administrative and legal value. They depict the past, explain the present and serve as a pointer to future.

Tamil Nadu Government Gazette – History in a Nutshell

–P. Rajarethinam, Research Assistant.

The ***Government Gazette*** is the official publication of the Government carrying statutory announcements, orders and other Government business matters, etc.

The entire Madras Presidency came under the direct rule of the East India Company in 1801. In 1831, the Chief Secretary suggested the expediency of establishing in the Government office, both as a medium of official communication and for general information, a ***Gazette*** in compact and convenient form. The Governor in Council resolved that *from* ***1st January 1832*** the *Fort St. George Gazette* would be published every Wednesday and Saturday and copies of the *Gazette* would be furnished to several public functionaries. Accordingly ***Fort St. George Gazette*** was begun to be published from 1832. In 1969, the nomenclature was changed into ***Tamil Nadu Government Gazette***. Notifications of Land acquisitions, Bills, Acts and Govrnment orders of public interest and statutory notifications of various departments have been published in the Gazette.

These Gazettes contain six parts and various sections according to the subjects. The subjects include Notifications of various Secretariat Departments, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, Election Commission, Directorate of School Education, Port Trust, Central and State Bills, Acts, Regulations, Adhoc Rules, Appointment of Government Officials, formation and dissolution of Public Societies, private advertisments on change of names, loss of certificates bonds, share certificates, etc. Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) Bulletins are being issued separately from 1974.

THE ROLE OF TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH

-Dr.M.Sundararaj

Tamil Nadu Archives plays a conspicuous role in the sphere of historical research in regional, national and international level. Though the archives was originally established for administrative purpose, its value as sources of history was gradually recognized. Foreigners especially the British scholars critically studied and illuminated the historical value of the records preserved in the Archives.

John Bruce, the keeper of State papers of the king and historiographer of the East India Company was the first person who used the early records of Fort St. George prior to 1670 for writing his voluminous work ***Annals of the Honourable East India Company***[1]. Following John Bruce James Grant Duff, a captain of the Bombay Native Infantry Regiment wrote the famous book ***A History of Mahrattas***. James Grant Duff was also a political resident at *Satara* for some times[2]. The first edition of the book was published in 1812 in three volumes. He also covered the South Indian the History of the English period.

Among the European writers Robert Orme, a civil servant in the English East India Company occupies an important place in the gallery of historians. Robert Orme wrote the famous books, ***'History of the Military transaction of British Nations in Hindustan from the year MDCCXLV*** to which is prefixed a dissertation on there establishments made by ***Mahamedan conquerors in Industan***. The work was a masterly contemporary account. In Book VIII Orme explained the poligars and their struggles [3].

Colonel Mark Wilks, the noted English historian enlightened the value of Madras records by his monumental work ***'History of Mysore'***. Colonel Mark has worked as the Governor of St. Helena and held that office until the imprisonment of Emperor Napoleon in that Island.[4] The Governor of Madras, Lord William Bentinck granted him full freedom to access the Madras records.

Talboys Wheeler, the noted historian and pioneer of curators of the Madras Record Office in record management, was deputed by the Madras Government to make a report about the conditions and contents of the records preserved in Fort St. George. In 1861, he submitted the report of the records covering the period upto 1835. He wrote ***"Madras in Olden Times - Being a history of the Presidency"*** in three volumes. In this book, he gives the history of the founding of Fort St. George and the political and military activities of the Governors[5].

Wheeler produced another noteworthy book entitled ***"Early records of British India - A history of the English settlements in India as told in the Government records, The works of old Travellers and the contemporary documents from the earliest period down to the rise of the British power in India"***. In 1878 the book was published in London by Trubner and Company. He collected records from Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Surat, for his works. Wheeler also wrote ***"A History of India from the earliest ages – the Geography of Heradotus"***, etc.[6].

In July 1890 Lord Connemara, the Governor of Madras entrusted Dewan Bahadur S. Srinivasa Raghavaiyangar, B.A., the Inspector General of Registration in Madras with the task of examining the economic condition of the Madras Presidency during the last 40 or 50 years. Hence S. Srinivasa Raghavaiyangar consulted the reports and records of various departments and prepared the note entitled as ***'Memorandum on the Progress of the Madras Presidency during the Forty years of the British Administration'***. He was the first Indian who prepared a note on the economic conditions of the presidency with the help of reports.

The confidential and other administrative documents were given to non-officials also. The Government of Madras, the custodian of the records in Fort St. George permitted entry to Fanny Emily Penny, the wife of Frank Penny, the Garrison Chaplain of Fort St. George. Her examination of records resulted in the publication of the valuable book ***'Fort St. George, Madras: A History of our first Possession in India'***. In this book Mrs. Frank Penny gives a vivid description of the founding of Fort St. George[7].

Frank Penny, the former chaplain in the King's majesty of Indian service worked in Madras Presidency exceeded his wife. His immortal work ***'The Church in Madras' being the History of the Ecclesiastical and Missionary action of the East India Company*** in the Presidency of Madras in the 17th and 18th Centuries in three volumes, opened a new chapter in the history of Christian missionaries in the Madras Presidency. The first volume of the book was published in 1904 and the subsequent two volumes were published in 1912 and 1922 respectively.[8]

Frederick John Price, an efficient civil servent and former Chief Secretary of the Madras Presidency was keenly interested in the Madras Records. After completing his higher education in Melbourne University, he entered Civil Service in 1862 as an Assistant Collector and Magistrate in North Arcot district. He became the Chief Secretary and a member of the Council of Fort St. George. In 1892 the existence of the *Diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai* was brought to the notice of the Madras Government by Lieutenant General

H. Maclead. Prof.G.W.Forrest, the Director General of Imperial Records suggested the Madras Government to translate the Diary from Tamil to English.

This work was entrusted to Price who started the translation and editing of the Diary in 1892 with the assistance of Rangachari, the Superintendent of Records, Fort St. George, Madras. Accordingly the translation work was finalized in 1898 and the first volume was published in 1904 by the Government of Madras. For clarifying some points and resolving some questions, he consulted the Madras records. Though Price retired from service in 1896, he continued the work connected with the translation and editing of the Diary and compiled the first three volumes which were published in 1904, 1907, and 1914 respectively. The subsequent volumes (Volume IV to XII) were compiled by Henry Dodewell, the first curator of the Madras Record Office.[9]

Price also wrote ***'Ootacamund A History'*** which was published in 1908. Historical contribution gave a new stimulus to the scholarship with social, political and economic condition of South India through his English edition of the Diary of Ananda Rangam Pillai. In the beginning of the 20th century scholars from the University of Madras who concentrated their research on the history of the Presidency during the British period, were mostly English men. Charles Lawson, an English research scholar wrote one book ***'Memories of Madras'***. During his research in University of Madras, he consulted the Madras records in Fort. St.George.[10]

His other equally famous book was the ***'Private life of Warrenhastings'.*** Writing of regional history got its perfection when Henry Davidson Love entered into the arena of historical research. He started his research by tracing the records of the Fort St. George in Madras and India Office Library, London as well as other sources. The outcome of his research was the publication of the famous book ***'Vestiges of Old Madras'*** in the Indian Records Series. The book is of four volumes and the fourth volume is the Index. The book contains a mine of information and it covers the period between 1640-1800.[11]

S.C. Hill, the officer in charge of the records of the Government of India did researches and wrote books such as ***'The life of Land Martin'***. ***'Three Frenchmen in Bengal', 'Bengal in 1756-1757',*** and ***'Yusuf Khan - The Rebel Commandant'***. For writing the book on ***Yusuf Khan*** he referred the Madras records.[12]

The appointment of Henry Dodwell as the first curator of the Madras Record Office in 1911, marked a new phase in the annals of historical research in Madras Records. He completed the translation and editing of the remaining volumes (i.e) IV to XII of the Private Diary of Anandarangam Pillai. He wrote a number of books such as

'Nabobs of Madras,' 'Dupliex and Clive - The Beginning of Empire', and edited the ***'Cambridge history of India'*** etc. He was a dominant member in the Indian Historical Records Commisison, first held in Simla in 1919. In the proceedings of the Commission, the members advocated historical research by opening the records to sponsored research scholars.[13]

Eventhough the Government codified the research rules and its proposal to encourage research, few scholars came to the record office after Dodwell's period. However researchers began to visit Madras Record Office after the first quarter of the 20th century.

From 1925 onwards C.S.Srinivasachari, professor of History, Pachaiyappa's College, concentrated his writings on the modern period and produced a number of articles published in the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission. His famous articles published in the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission were ***The promotion of Dravidian Linquistic Studies in the Company's days, The Abbey Dubois in Baramahal records, First Burma War and the Madras Army - A Narrative, Poligar System in the Tamil country, Right and left hand caste disputes in Madras in the early part of the 18th century***[14]***, Nawab Anwaru-ud-din Khan of the Carnatic from the Tuzak-I-Walijohi of Burhan-ud-din etc. History of Senji*** and ***A History of Madras*** are his master pieces. He was the first scholar who referred the records after getting permission from the Government. In 1928, Bhatnagar, Lecturer in Economics, University of Allahabad applied to the Government to refer the records for writing a book entitled as ***'Local Self Government in the British India'***. The number of research scholars gradually raised when the Universities began to send their students to the Record Offices. The numbers of research scholars who did researches in the Madras Record Office were 3, 7 ,9 and 11 in the years 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 respectively.[15]

Subsequently University scholars and private organizations came to the Record Office for collecting sources for their research. In 1930, the Hyderabad Nizam's Government requested the Madras Government to permit to collect materials for confirming a case between the Central Government and the Nizam. The request was rejected on the ground that the matter was related to State and Central relation.[16]

A. Saradha, a research fellow of the Madras University got permission to collect materials from the Madras Record Office. She was the first lady who entered portals of the Madras Record Office, as a research scholar. Her research resulted in the publication

of the famous book ***"Economic Condition in the Madras Presidency 1800-1850"***, published in 1941. After 1930, Scholars both Europian and Indian began to use Tamil Nadu Archives for their researches. The scholars included women also and their number grew slowly but steadily. Under the guidance and inspiration of Dr P.J.Thomas, Nataraja Pillai, the research scholar wrote and published a thesis ***'Economic depression in the Madras Presidency'***. In this book, the economic conditions of 19th century and the factors which paved the way for the economic depression were clearly explained.[18]

The appointment of Dr B.S.Baliga as the curator in the Madras Record Office enabled a further growth in the annals of historical research in Madras Record Office. He himself was an eminent research scholar and produced valuable research books and articles. His ***Studies in Madras Administration*** and ***Compendiums*** on various topics are the prime sources of information for knowing the political, economic and social life of the South Indians. His ***District Gazetteers*** and ***District Hand books*** are considered administrative and historical tools for knowing the details of different subjects.[19]

Before Independence, the historical researches by the scholars and professors and faculty members of the Universities centred round mainly on Ancient and Medieval History. Not much researches were done on the Modern History and the National Movement. But after the Nation's freedom, academicians began to show keen interest on the researches in Modern History for which the archival sources are the main stay. Professors, college teachers and research students began to visit Tamil Nadu Archives for their doctoral researches and for degrees leading to M.Lit and M.Phil. Among the eminent scholars who did their researches in Tamil Nadu Archives who have published their master pieces as the result of their researches, mention must be made on the following academicians.

Dr. K.Rajayyan, the former Professor and Head of the School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University delved deep into the Colonial records and brought out so many publications including ***The South Indian Rebellion – The First War of Independence 1800-1801*** brought out in the year 1971. This work throws light on a league organised by the South Indian rulers and leaders to oust the Colonial rule as early as 1800-1801. This is a fitting prelude to the Vellore Mutiny of 1806 and the 1857 Rebellion, the mile stones of Freedom Movement. Foreign scholars such as Eugene Irshik carried out his research in Tamil Nadu Archives and published his work", ***'Politics and Social Conflict in South India – The Non–Brahmin Movement and Tamil Separatism'*** in the year 1969, another Foreign academician D.A.Wash Brook went

into the archival records and published his famous book ***"The Emergence of Provincial Politics–The Madras Presidency, 1810–1920",*** 'in 1970. David Ludden, a French Scholar enrolled as a researcher in Archives and produced his well-researched work ***Peasant History of South India*** (Oxford) in 1985. In 1970s, Dr C.J.Nirmal, Professor and Head of the Department of History, Madras Christian College worked on the ***Madras Press,*** Dr B. Kusumalatha Bi did her research on the ***Humanitarian Ideas in Madras Administration.*** Dr B.Sheik Ali, the reputed historiographer carried out his researches on the ***History of Mysore*** and T.K.Raveendran on ***Malabar.*** *R.L.Hardgrave's* intensive researches in the Archives enabled him to publish ***The Dravidian Movement*** (1960) and other books. R.E.Frykenderg a foreign scholar worked in Archives and brought out ***'Guntur District (1788–1848) - A History of Local Influences and Central Authority in South India'*** (1969).

Mostly all the Professors and Heads of Departments of History of the Universities and Colleges of Tamil Nadu have been enrolled as researchers in the Tamil Nadu Archives. Dr.N.Subramanian's *(Professor and Head of the Department of Epigraphy (Retd.) Tamil University Thanjavur)* ***Social History of Tamil Nadu 1707 - 1947,*** published in 1994, Dr P. Jagadeesan's *(Former Vice – Chancellor, Barathidasan University)* ***Marriages and Social Legislations*** (1990), Dr C. Venkadesan's (*Joint Director of Collegiate Education – Retd.)* ***History of Prison Administration in Madras Presidency 1719 – 1939*** (1981). Dr B.S. Chandrababu's *(Professor of History (Retd.) School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University)* ***Social Protests in Tamil Nadu*** Dr N. Rajendran's *(Dean of Arts and Professor and Head of Department of History, Bharadhidasan's University, Tiruchirapalli)* ***National Movement in Tamilnadu – Agitational Politics and States Coersion*** (1994) Dr. G. Venkatraman's *(Professor and Head of the Department of Indian History, University of Madras) Research papers on studies in the Irrigation History of Tamilnadu* and Dr A.R.Venkatasalapathi's (Professor, MIDS) researches on Bharathi studies and Literature, remain to be some of the research outputs brought out by the scholars to the student community.

By 1980s, Dr. Saroja Sundararajan wrote her book ***"Madras Presidency In Pre Gandhian Era - A Historical Perspective 1884 – 1915"*** using archival papers. Dr. David Arnold's ***'Nationalism and Regional Politics in Tamilnadu'*** also is a magnum opus based on archival papers.

Now, teaching faculties, all the students pursing M.Phil and Ph.D programmes in Social Sciences enroll as research scholars with the Tamil Nadu Archives and their

research needs are being looked after well. The role of the Tamil Nadu Archives in promoting historical research is a continuing process.

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8. Frank Penny. *The Church in Madras : Being history of the ecclesiastical and missionary action of the East India Company in the Presidency of Madras in the 17th and 18th centuries, Smith* Elder and Company, London, 1904, p.448.
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research needs are being looked after well. The role of the Tamil Nadu Archives in promoting historical research is a continuing process.

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Dr. B.S. BALIGA - A PIONEER IN ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

-*M. Sendurapandian,* M.A., *Research Officer(Retd.)*

Dr. Bantwal Surendranath Baliga, former curator of Madras Record Office deserves to be remembered especially when Tamil Nadu Archives is celebrating centenary of its existence. As the first trained archivist in India, he had done yeoman service to Tamil Nadu in preserving records and encouraging research in them, besides making them available for administrative purposes with copious notes wherever necessary.

Dr. B.S. Baliga, was born on 11 November 1908 in Bantwal near Mangalore. He took his B.A. degree from Madras University and B.A. Hons. and Ph.D from London University. His thesis for Ph.D. was *The influence of the Home Govt. on Land Revenue and judicial administration in the Presidency Fort William in Bengal from 1807 to 1822* which covered the Madras Administration as well. He was appointed as Curator on 23 August 1934. He was deputed to Public Records Office, London, for archival training. On return, he served for Tamil Nadu Archives with commendable perseverance and professional acumen and managed the affairs of Madras Record Office for nearly a quarter century and died in harness in September 1958.

Archives keeping and research were his domains. He studied the archival records and brought out many publications including two volumes of ***Studies in Madras Administration***, with 38 Articles on various topics, four compendiums and four district gazetteers. His other contributions are calendaraisation of revenue records (177-800), preparation of catalogues for library books and archival records. When new States like Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, and Mysore were formed the records were separated under his guidance and the records relating to the newly formed States were handed over to them.

Earlier the Records of East India Company upto 1750 where examined compiled and published 300 volumes by his predecessors examined the records of East India Company upto 1750, compiled and published 300 Volumes of selected records. Likewise Dr. Baliga also examined the records relating to 1751- 1765 and compiled 200 volumes of selections and *in extenso* publications. He brought out revised edition of J.J.Cotton's Inscriptions on Tombs and Monuments in Madras in two volumes.

Dr. Baliga is a pioneer in writing post Independence Gazetteers in India. Even before the Government of India passed resolution to revise and rewrite the District

Gazetteer of India, he started the work in Tamil Nadu and published *District Handbooks,* synonyms of District Gazetteers.

The Curator, Madras Record Office was also an ex-officio member of the Indian Historical Records Commission set up in 1919. Dr. Baliga participated in the meetings of IHRC for several years during 1937-1958. He was not only a member of the Commission but also a spokesman of the Commission for the archival matters. With his efforts in 1953, the National Committee of Archives for the purpose of furthering the cause of archival science in general and the archival needs of the different states in India in particular, was started by him along with the Director of National Archives of India.

Dr. Baliga was one of the archivists who mooted the idea of preparing the National Register of Archives and Manuscripts. He was instrumental in the formation of Regional Committee for Survey of Historical Records. He was a member of the Research Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commissions, and he contributed many articles for the publication.

An article he wrote in 1952 on the subject of *Revival of Art and Cottage Industries in Madras,* published in a Magazine was appriciated by the then Chief Secretary to Government of Madras. Dr. Baliga had visited Tanjore Saraswathi Mahal Library and suggested measures for its reorganisation. He had also visited the Records of the High Court of Madras and the Records of the Board of Revenue and New Andhra State Archives and sent valuable suggestions for their proper preservation.

In 1939, when Gandhiji wrote to Government of Madras seeking clarification on certain points regarding the growth of literacy in the State, Baliga prepared the note on behalf of the Government using archival sources. The note was sent to Gandhiji.

Dr. Baliga was a person of having archival consciousness throughout his service. During his entire service he availed leave only for his father's death and avoided availing leave for other occasions as he was much devoted to his work. The British Government recognised his exemplary performances which he had done during 2nd World War, in transporting records to remote places for fear of incendiary attack. He made them available daily for the day-to-day work of the Government in a systematic and efficient manner. For his distinguished services the British Government conferred on him the title of 'Rao Bhahadur' which he discarded after India attained freedom.

During the 2nd World War the reprinting of old records was stopped by the Director of Stationery and Printing. Dr. Baliga after knowing this wrote a strong protest note against his action of suspending the reprint work which he pointed out that any savings which might result over suspending the printing of old records would be quite disproportionate for the loss that would inflict upon. He stressed the Government for the use of quality paper to be used for all records of permanent value. He said that it is a fundamental principle of archives keeping that the authenticity of a document depends solely upon unbroken official custody.

Objectivity and truth were main concerns of his writings. In 1957, Thiru C. N. Annadurai when he was the opposition leader in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, appreciated Baliga's article, *Nationalism and Independence in Madras* published in *The Hindu,* through an editorial, titled *Truth Triumphs* in, *Home Land* the fortnightly published by him.

Dr. Baliga's sudden demise came in the midnight of 21st September 1958 in his residence while he was writing. His death was mourned by the then State and Central Governments. Sri Prakasa, the then Governor of Bombay wired that he himself was always a great admirer of Baliga's wide knowledge and great work rendered by him to Madras Record Office. His mortal remains might have been laid to rest, but the legacies he had left behind will be remembered as long as the archival institutions exist.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT OF TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Period
1.	Mr. C. M. Schmidt (Registrar of the Chief Secretariat)	Officer in-charge	1909 -1911
2.	Mr. Henry Dodwell, Esq., M.A. I.E.S., Curator	Curator	1911 – 1922
3.	M.R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Sekhara Menon, B.A.,	Curator	28.04.1925 – 30.06.1926
4.	Mr. J.J. Cotton, Esq., M.A. I.C.S.,	Curator	01.07.1926 – 20.06.1927
5.	M.R. Ry. A.V. Venkatarama Ayyar, M.A. L.T.,	Curator Curator	17.12.1927 – 11.04.1930
6.	Mr. P. Macqueen, Esq., I.C.S.,	Curator	12.04.1930 – 06.08.1930
7.	Mr. G.T. Boag, Esq., C.I.E I.C.S.,	Curator	19.08.1930 – 05.01.1931
8.	Mr. P. Macqueen, Esq., I.C.S.,	Curator	10.03.1931 – 12.04.1934
9.	Mr. P. Macqueen, Esq., I.C.S.,	Curator	13.10.1934 – 31.03.1935
10	Dr. B.S. Baliga, Ph. D. (London)	Curator	01.04.1935 – 21.09.1958
11.	Thiru. S. Chidambaram, I.A.S.,	Curator	16.02.1961 – 09.10.1962
12.	Thiru N.S.Natarajan, Assistant Curator	Curator(I/c)	10.10.1962 - 30.10.1962
13.	Thiru. C.P. Kelu Erady, I.A.S.,	Curator	31.10.1962 – 04.02.1963
14.	Thiru N.S.Natarajan, Assistant Curator	Curator(I/c)	04.02.1963 - 17.09.1963
15.	Thiru C.K.Gopalan Nambiyar, -do-	Curator(I/c)	18.09.1963 - 02.01.1966
16.	Thiru. G.Victor Solomon, B.A. (Hons.)	Curator	03.01.1966 – 30.06.1966
17	Thiru. J.K. Manickam, B.A.,	Curator	01.07.1966 – 14.06.1967
18	Thiru. P.K. Nambiar, I.A.S.,	Curator	15.06.1967 – 06.06.1968
19	Thiru. Singarajan, M.A. M.Litt.,	Director	07.06.1968 – 18.11.1973
20.	Thiru. Singarajan, M.A. M.Litt.,	Director	01.08.1975 – 31.10.1986
21.	Thiru. Badrinath, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	07.02.1973 – 24.05.1975
22.	Thiru. L.M. Vasagam, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	25.05.1975 – 08.07.1976
23.	Thiru. M.K. Gomethagavelu, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	09.07.1976 – 10.12.1977
24.	Thiru. A.N. Natarajan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	11.12.1977 – 19.06.1978
25.	Thiru. S.P. Elangovan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	20.06.1978 – 31.07.1978
26.	Thiru. A.N. Natarajan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	01.08.1978 – 15.12.1978

27.	Thiru. S.P. Elangovan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	16.12.1978 – 14.02.1979
28.	Thiru. K. Aludiapillai, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	15.02.1979 – 14.03.1979
29.	Thiru. A.N. Natarajan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	15.03.1979 – 12.07.1979
30.	Thiru. S. Jayaraman, B.A.,	Commissioner(I/c)	13.07.1979 – 23.08.1979
31.	Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	24.08.1979 – 14.10.1980
32.	Thiru. M. Venkatachalam, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	15.10.1980 – 17.11.1982
33.	Thiru. S. Rangamani, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	18.11.1982 – 29.05.1989
34.	Tmt. V. Chandralekha, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	29.05.1989 – 24.03.1991
35.	Thiru. A. Elangovan, I.A.S.,	Director	25.03.1991 – 02.11.1991
36.	Thiru. M. Paramasivam, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	03.11.1991 – 04.05.1992
37.	Tmt. V. Chandralekha, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	05.05.1992 – 09.07.1992
38.	Thiru. M. Abul Hasan, , I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	10.07.1992 – 26.07.1992
39.	Thiru. T.R. Ramaswamy, , I.A.S.,	Director	27.07.1992 – 25.01.1993
40	Thiru. K. Ganesan, , I.A.S.,	Director	26.01.1993 – 23.08.1993
41.	Thiru. M. Paramasivam, I.A.S.,	Special Commissioner	14.07.1993 – 31.03.1995
42.	Thiru. R. Satpathy, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	01.04.1995 – 26.04.1995
43.	Tmt. S. Malathi, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	27.04.1995 – 21.05.1996
44	Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S.,	Special Commissioner	22.05.1996 – 10.10.1997
45	Thiru. S.P. Elangovan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	20.10.1997 – 05.11.1997
46.	Thiru. S. Ragupathi, I.A.S.,	Director	06.11.1997 – 06.12.1998
47.	Thiru. K. Inbasagaran, I.A.S.,	Special Commissioner	07.12.1998 – 29.05.2001
48.	Thiru. E. V. Manivannan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	30.05.2001 – 06.06.2001
49.	Tmt. Girija Vaidyanathan, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	07.06.2001 – 09.12.2001
50.	Thiru. J.T. Acharyalu, I.A.S.,	Special Commissioner	10.12.2001 – 11.06.2002
51.	Thiur. N. Athimoolam, I.A.S.,	Special Commissioner	12.06.2002 – 31.08.2003
52.	Tmt. Meenakshi Rajagopal, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	01.09.2003 – 21.09.2003
53.	Thiru. K. Sampathkumar, I.A.S.,	Commissioner	22.09.2003 – 18.06.2004
54.	Thiru. Arun Ramanathan, I.A.S.,	Special Commissioner	19.06.2004 - 31.05.2005
55.	Thiru.K.S.Sripathi, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	01.06.2005 - 21.06.2005
56.	Dr.M.A.Muthuveera Ganapathy	Commissioner (I/c)	28.06.2005 - 20.07.2005
57.	Thiru.Arun Ramanathan, I.A.S.,	Spl.Commissioner	21.07.2005 - 14.05.2006
58	Thiru. N. Narayanan, I.A.S.,	Principal Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary	15.05.2006 - 31.07.2008
59	Thiru. V.K. Jayakodi, I.A.S.,	Commissioner(I/c)	1.08.2008 - 30.09.2008
60.	Thiru. Ramesh Kumar Khanna, I.A.S.,	Principal Secretary/ Commissioner	01.10.2008 - till date

ANNALS OF TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES - 1909 - 2009

1909 • Madras Record Office started functioning in Egmore with records transferred from the Fort St. George.
• Mr. C.M. Schmidt appointed as Officer-In-charge of the Record Office.
• Administration block and six Stacks were constructed.

1910 • Government of India decided the preparation of a Handbook to the Records.

1911 • Mr. Henry Dodwell appointed as the first Curator.

1916 • Mr. Dodwell's Report on the Madras Records Printed.

1919 • Indian Historical Records Commission – First Meet.

1921 • Mending Section started.

1923 • Archival Library Constituted.

1926 • Mr. J.J.Cotton appointed as first Curator and Editor.

1927 • Stack VII was built.

1929 • Stack VII – opened for housing Records.

1930 • Permission granted for Scholars to use Archives.
• Mr.Macqueen appointed as Curator.
• G.T.Boag appointed as Curator.

1931 • Fire safety measures instituted.

1934 • Library catalogue compiled.

1935 • Archives Museum opened.
• Dr. B.S. Baliga, the First Trained Archivist in India took charge of the Madras Record Office.

1936 • Separation of Records for the Newly formed Orissa State.
• Library catalogue published.

1938 • Stacks VIII and IX opened for the Records of Board of Revenue Survey Records and Maps.
• Imparted training to district collectorate attenders (two members) on preservation.

1942 • Archives records moved to Chittoor and Palmanar –(Andhra Pradesh) in view of the World War-II.
• *Studies in Madras Administration* published.

1946 • Centralisation of confidential records.

1947 • Parts of Records retransferred to Madras from Palmaner and Chittoor.

1948 • Regional Committee for the Survey of Historical Records Constituted.

1949 • Revision of publication on "Studies in Madras Administration"

1950 • Archives records moved back to its original place in Egmore.

1952 • Centralisation of Electoral Rolls in Archives.
• Books registered by the Registrar of Books transferred to Archives from the office of Senior Translator to Government.

1953 • Catalogue for Dutch records published.

1956 • Separation of Current Records-Owing to States Re-organisation.
• Catalogue of Danish records published.

1957 • Compilation of Compendiums.
• *Thanjavur Handbook* released.

1958 • Centralisation of large collection of books and periodicals registered under the Press and Registration of Books, Act-1867.

1959 • Centralisation of District Court records relating to East India Company's period in Archives.

1960 • Listing and cataloguing of Persian Records.
• Madurai District Gazetteer published.

1961 • Appointment of State Editor for revising the District Gazetteers.

1962 • Curator was nominated to attend Indian Historical Records Commission Meeting.
• South Arcot District Gazetteer published.

1963 • Fumigation Cabinet Installed.

1964 • Centralisation of High Court Records of 1801 – 1862.

1966 • Listing and Cataloguing of Persian Records completed.
• Coimbatore District Gazetteer published.

1967 • Salem District Gazetteer released.

1968 • Nomenclature of the Madras Record Office changed as Tamil Nadu Archives.

1969 • Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Tamil Nadu Archives.
• De-Acidification of Papers introduced.
• The Conference Hall and Exhibition Hall opened.

1971 • Nomenclature of Madras State Archives altered as Tamil Nadu Archives with effect from 14.1.1968 (G.O.issued).

1971 • Installation of Vacuum Fumigation Chamber in Archives.

1972	•	Ramanathapuram District Gazetteer released.
1973	•	The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, visited Archives.
	•	Creation of the post of Commissioner of Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical
	•	Research as Head of the Department.
	•	Creation of the Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research.
1978	•	Opening of the New Building for the Fumigation and Barrow Lamination.
	•	First *Archives Week* Celebrated.
1979	•	Provision of Reprography Facility.
1980	•	Started Record Management Training Course (15 working days training).
1981	•	Proposals regarding re-organisation of Tamil Nadu Archives approved by Government.
1982	•	Electronic Stencil cutter and Automatic Duplicator were introduced for printing the Archival Publications.
	•	First time in the history of Tamil Nadu Archives District level Offices were opened in Coimbatore, Madurai and Chidambaram.
	•	Microfilm Unit installed.
1983	•	Pudukkottai District Gazetteer published.
1986	•	District Record Centre at Trichirappalli started functioning from February.
1987	•	15 days Record Management training has been converted into that of 30 days training course. Minolta Plain Paper copier installed.
	•	District Record Centre at Salem started.
	•	Interim Repository was organized in Archives buildings for preserving semi-current records.
1988	•	Preparation of Guide to Records under the Central Financial Assistance Scheme.
1989	•	Training to staff of the government / public sector undertakings / non governmental organisations introduced.
1990	•	Four Regional Committees for Survey of Historical Records were constituted.
1991	•	Dr. Gopal Committee Report on Archives improvement submitted.
1992	•	Endowment scheme in the Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research for the benefit of scholars created.
	•	Three Philanthropists created Endowments with Tamil Nadu Archives to deliver annual lecture for the benefit of the Research Scholars.
	•	Microfilm Reader-*cum*-Printer and Readers installed.

1993 • Microfilming of pre- 1857 records in the Tamil Nadu Archives under the
• Central Financial Assistance Scheme started.

1994 • Re-Printing of old and rare books initiated.

1995 • New building for Mending Section opened.
• Dharmapuri, Kanniyakumari and The Nilgiris District Gazetteers published
• Installation of DTP System in Gazetteer Section.

1996 • Creation of part-time Research Fellowship instituted.
• Scheme of Computerisation of pre-1857 records launched.
• Endowment lectures organized.
• Archives recognised as 'Research Centre in Modern History by the University of Madras'.

1997 • District Record Centre Started functioning at Thanjavur.
• Organisation of Photo Archives.
• Installation of O.H.P. Fax Machine, D.T.P. System, Electronic Typewriter, Lamination Machine and Elke Senator Microfilm Camera.
• Conduct of Photo Exhibition on the inauguration of 50th year of Indian Independence.

1998 & 1999 • Donation of seven Lamination Machines to the Archives by the British Council received.
• Airconditioning of Research Hall, Microfilm Storage-room, D.T.P. System, etc.
• Construction of Separate Building for Library.
• The fountain in the lawn of Archives was renovated.
• Tiruchirappalli District Gazetteer puplished
• Provision of Dining Hall for staff.
• Director of Archives was appointed as a Member in the group, for preparation of National Literature.

2000 & 2001 • Purchase of Microfilm Processor.
• Erstwhile Chegalpattu (Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur) District Gazetteer published.
• Towards New Age of Partnership (UNESCO) Project approved by the Government.

2001 & 2002 • Release of book on Dutch Sources on South Asia.
• Tirunelveli District a Gazetteer released.

2003 • Re-print of Library books,
• Introduction of Library catalogue.

2004, 2005& 2006
- Purchase of Iron Racks, Book Scanners, Micro Film Scanner, Thin Clients,
- CCTV, provision of e-security doors.
- Dusting and Re-arrangement Work, Intercom facility, Digitization of Books,
- Digital cataloguing and indexing of Library books.
- Re-installation of modern fire hydrants and smoke detectors.
- Exhibition in commemoration of 75th year of Dandi march in collaboration with National Archives of India organised .
- Air conditioning of Stack – 7.

2007
- Thoothukudi District Gazetteer released.
- Renovation of Research Hall and Administrative Block.
- Purchase of lockers to Research Hall.
- National Archives of India and Tamil Nadu Archives jointly conducted. workshop on preservation practices.
- Exhibition on Madras Day in collaboration with British Scholars' Association conducted.
- Library additional floors construction started.

2008
- Purchase of Photocopying Machines and Microfilm Reader.

2009
- Office campus Landscaped.
- Completion of new additional floors in library building.
- Renovation of Archives building under 12th Finance Commission Heritage Fund.
- Renovation of Reprography Unit.
- Tamil Nadu Archives Centenary Celebration.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE
1909